

TOMORROW

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Wales failed to qualify for the European Championship football finals when Yugoslavia beat Bulgaria...

Harrods bomb

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Radioactive leak at Sellafield may lead to prosecution

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

British Nuclear Fuels, the company which runs the nuclear reprocessing plant at Sellafield...

The Director of Public Prosecutions has been called in after investigations of the incident have disclosed that there may have been breaches of the law requiring exposures to the public from discharges to be kept 'as low as reasonably achievable'...

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, announcing the DPP's involvement in the Commons yesterday...

He told MPs, however, that it was clear from the early inquiries that there had been no breach of the authorized limits on radioactive discharges...

The company and its chief officers could be prosecuted under the Radioactive Substances Act of 1960...

The penalties are a fine of up to £1,000 or up to three months' imprisonment on summary conviction...

At the same time a report has been published by Ministry of Agriculture scientists on the marine, environmental and agricultural consequences of the discharge...

The protection board concluded that radioactivity in the seaweed samples it examined was well below the level which would constitute a hazard to the general population...

Parliament, page 4



Child crusader: A Shia boy displaying support for Ayatollah Khomeini during a demonstration in Beirut yesterday...

Eight die in blast on French base in Beirut

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

At least one French soldier and seven civilians were killed and 17 other people were wounded last night in the latest attack on French troops...

In a pattern which has now become all too familiar to American and French soldiers here, a lorry was driven towards the heavily guarded and sand-bagged French base at Nasra...

The bomb blasted down an apartment block and civil defence workers were last night burrowing into the ruins to search for civilian victims.

The lorry rammed an earth embankment - specially built to protect the French from just such an attack - at the back of the schoolhouse where the French troops are billeted.

The soldiers there apparently had no time to fire at the driver before the attack. The explosion was so powerful that it blew a hole 20ft wide and 10ft deep into the road.

At almost exactly the same time, another bomb was thrown at a West Beirut bar where American Marines often drink...

The Pickwick Bar, just off Hamra Street, was devastated in the explosion and the first police to reach the building found two of the bodies burning fiercely.

A US Marine guard from the American Embassy had been drinking in an adjoining room but was not hurt by the blast.

The bombs, which were almost certainly carried out by Shia Muslim extremists, came at the end of a day in which Israeli jets had bombed Iranian and Shia militia positions around the eastern Lebanese city of Baalbek.

Syrian troops fired barrages of missiles at the Israeli planes and the authorities in Damascus later claimed that seven civilians had been wounded, two of them seriously, when bombs exploded in the Shaikh Abdullab barracks south-east of Baalbek where Iranian revolutionary guards are living.

The barracks was captured from Lebanese soldiers earlier this year and was the target of a French air raid last month which failed to damage either the barracks or the buildings inside.

The Israelis said that the Iranian position - the Israelis called it a terrorist base - had housed the men who planned both attacks on Israeli soldiers in Lebanon and on the multinational troops in Beirut.

The attacks in Beirut last night may thus have been intended as retaliation for a

Continued on back page, col 2

Five held in hunt for Harrods bombers

By Stewart Tendler

Five Irishmen were held for questioning in London and Manchester yesterday under the Prevention of Terrorism Act by detectives investigating the Provisional IRA bombing at Harrods...

Police are also searching for a sixth man in the Midlands.

None of the men is thought to be directly involved in the Saturday's bombing, but detectives hope they may provide useful information.

Four were arrested in north and west London, yesterday in an operation organized by the Special Branch and carried out by the branch anti-terrorist squad officers and the Special Patrol Group.

The four were taken to Paddington Green police station, considered the most secure London station and normally used for people held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

At Scotland Yard, detectives under Commander William Huckleby, head of the anti-terrorist squad, were still trying to trace the movements of the Austin 1300 used to hold the bomb.

Attempts have been made to produce an artist's impression of the man who bought the car from a part-time car dealer last month...

Cabinet likely to reject calls to ban Sinn Fein

From Richard Ford, Belfast

The Cabinet is likely to take the advice of Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and reject calls for banning Provisional Sinn Fein...

Mr Prior's warnings of the dangers involved in prescribing the Provisional IRA's political wing will be headed by ministers, and the postponement by Dr Garret FitzGerald's Government on imposing a ban in the Republic will also influence them.

However, the last document on which the Official Unionist politician, Mr Edgar Graham, was working when he was murdered, was published yesterday, calling for Provisional Sinn Fein's proscription, internment of its leaders and exclusion of its members from posts in public service.

Mr Graham had checked proofs of the paper on the night before he died, and it states: 'The reality is that they are a political front for the Provisional IRA and membership of the Provisional IRA and Sinn Fein is widely overlapping.'

He had been in touch with Dublin since the Harrods bombing and favoured joint moves on security because the problem affected the whole island of Ireland.

Mr Philip Flynn, acting general secretary of the Republic's Local Government and Public Services Union, is facing pressure to resign as a vice-president of Sinn Fein because of last week's terrorist violence.

He has received the requests from branches of the union.

Leading article, page 11

Dearer gas from New Year's Day

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Gas prices are to rise by up to 4.3 per cent on New Year's Day, but standing charges have been pegged. Any further increases during 1984 have been ruled out by British Gas.

The cost of heating a typical three-bedroom home by gas central heating will rise by 26p a week and British Gas estimates that cooking costs for a family of four will rise by 2.5p a week.

British Gas has also put back an increase in industrial gas contract prices from mid-January to April 1 'to continue to help British business in the fight against recession.'

The tariff changes is the first for 15 months and comes after confirmation that new financial targets have been agreed between British Gas and the Department of Energy.

In contrast with the electricity supply industry, which is opposing price increases to meet new government financial targets, British Gas emphasized yesterday that the price rise decision was its own and not the Government's.

British Gas also said that the increase was in line with its policy of setting a long-term pattern of modest increases to compensate for natural gas price rises.

Letters, page 11

Abbey National have a haven for roll-up money

Seven Day Account pays 8.25% net!

New taxation laws seem certain to make offshore 'roll-up' funds a lot less attractive from January 1st. Now's the time to consider the alternatives.

Where else can you enjoy a high return with ready access to your money? If you are a taxpayer, you will have to look a long way to beat the current rate offered by Abbey National's Seven Day Account.

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OECD forecasts UK recovery among fastest in Europe

From Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent, Paris

Britain's economy was said yesterday to be recovering faster than most countries in Europe, but with prospects of a sustained period of growth still threatened by continuing high interest rates and huge budget deficits in the United States.

This was among the main conclusions of the latest set of authoritative half-yearly economic forecasts from the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development, the international club of leading industrialized countries.

The OECD report is likely to be seen by Mrs Margaret Thatcher and other European leaders as useful ammunition in their efforts to persuade President Reagan to modify his economic policies.

The report, published in Paris, says that unemployment in Britain is likely to remain unchanged until 1985, but will continue to rise in the rest of Europe during that period.

Britain can also expect economic growth of 2.25 per cent next year, 0.75 per cent lower than forecast by the Treasury, but still higher than every European country except Spain, Sweden, Finland and Switzerland.

The main question, the OECD says, is not so much whether Britain's recovery will continue, but whether its recent strength can be sustained.

Its conclusion is a cautiously optimistic one: 'With recovery now occurring in important export markets, the potential for growth would seem stronger than for some time.'

Inflation in Britain is likely to run at 5.5 per cent next year, slightly above the latest Treasury forecast of 4.5 per cent by the end of next year, but in line with the OECD average of 5.25 per cent.

The OECD gives a warning, however, that the global economic recovery is still highly dependent on growth in the American economy, which is expected to start slowing down in 1985, after expanding by 5 per cent in the coming year.

The industrial economies in the OECD are expected to grow as a group by 3.5 per cent next year - a slightly better performance than the OECD predicted in July.

The OECD says that the short-term effects of a cut in the American budget deficit from 1985 onwards might be to reduce demand in the US and abroad. But in the longer run, growth would be more sustainable.

It adds that unless Europe takes advantage of any fall in the dollar to bring down interest rates at home, there will not be a significant improvement in their economies.

Beak messages, page 14

Grant of £2m to cover losses at London Zoo

By Our Political Staff

Parliament is to be asked to approve a grant of up to £2m to cover this year's expected operating deficit of the Zoological Society of London.

Announcing this in a Commons Written answer yesterday, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, also said that the Government had agreed to provide financial support for up to three more years, ending on March 31, 1986.

GLC 'apartheid' may hit stars

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

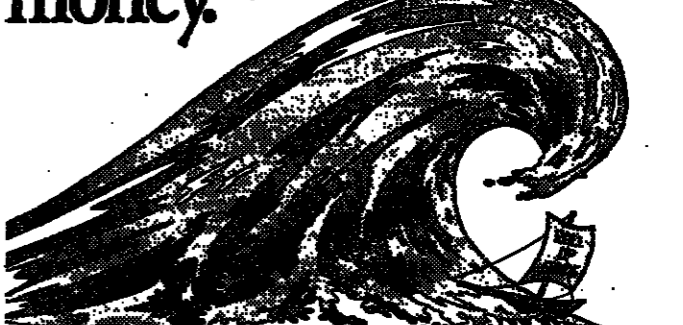
The GLC's ruling Labour group hopes to ban entertainers who have performed in South Africa from council premises.

The ban, which would also apply to athletes appearing at Crystal Palace and other GLC-owned sports tracks, would affect entertainers like Frank Sinatra and Shirley Bassey, and classical conductors and soloists.

A number of performers could find themselves banned from the Festival Hall if the move goes ahead, the London promoter, Mr Raymond Gubby, said last night.

'I don't think any promoter would easily accept that he could or could not choose the people he employs like this', Mr Gubby said.

'My reaction is one of some degree of shock. We engage artists for what they are and not for their politics.'



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# WPC wins sex bias case against police but is censured at tribunal

The police woman at the centre of a sex discrimination dispute won her case yesterday, but was severely censured by the tribunal chairman.

WPC Constable Wendy de Launay, the traffic officer who was banned from working with married male colleagues last February, won her claim for sexual discrimination and victimisation at the London South Industrial Tribunal.

But Mr Geoffrey Higgs, the chairman, declined to make an award for injured feelings and criticized WPC de Launay for not first taking her grievance through the police complaint procedure.

Mr Higgs said that the decision to ban WPC de Launay, aged 25, from her "posted partnership" with Police Constable Trevor Atfield, an experienced traffic officer aged 31, was sexual discrimination, and her return last October to foot patrol in Fulham, west London, was victimisation.

He added that her transfer was a direct result of her complaint to the Equal Opportunities Commission. "She was subjected to sexual discrimination and has made out her case on all counts", Mr Higgs said. He reserved the reasons for the decision.

Mr Higgs then made a statement, saying the case was of considerable public interest. "The parties themselves are not beyond criticism in the way they have handled the situation," Miss de Launay is a member

of a disciplined police force and she saw the problem of a relationship with PC Atfield and she should have understood that it was a matter of genuine concern to Chief Superintendent Brian Wallace regarding discipline at the Hampton, Middlesex, garage.

Mr Higgs said that WPC de Launay should have referred the problem to the commander of the police of West division or, if necessary, other senior officers under the orders and regulations.

"Miss de Launay also instituted the proceedings without giving prior notice to Chief Supt Wallace," he said.

"The fact that her conduct may be criticized is not a justification for Chief Supt Wallace to discriminate against her in the way he did, except that he was faced with a general problem.

"We find that he failed to consider the problem closely and seemed to have over-reacted."

Mr Higgs said that the tribunal sympathized with WPC de Launay for the distress she had suffered from the sexual discrimination but it was not appropriate to make a compensatory award.

He adjourned the hearing to give both parties time to "cool off" and the Commissioner time to consider returning WPC de Launay to the traffic division when appropriate.

Mr Higgs added: "It might be a good thing if the dust was allowed to settle before we



Duty calls: WPC Wendy de Launay, whose claim of sexual discrimination was accepted by a London tribunal yesterday.

# Fire risk claim over 'silly string' aerosol

By David Nicholson-Lord

Many homes could face a serious fire risk at Christmas from aerosol cans of "silly string", a supposedly innocuous solvent-based streamer designed to make parties go with a swing. Tests on one brand indicated that, contrary to the producer's claims, it remained flammable long after being sprayed.

Hundreds of thousands of cans are sold each year, after a London businessman contacted *The Times* with details of tests on one brand, Swan Fun String, produced by Porth Textiles, of South Wales.

Mr Ronald Collins, managing director of a telecommunications company and a member of the Institute of Patentees and Inventors, noticed that the string turned brown and shrivelled when Christmas tree lights were switched on near it. When he applied a lighted cigarette to it, it burst into flames and dropped hot plastic on to his hand.

Mr Collins, who has worked in fire testing, said: "People spray this stuff on to hair and clothes as well as Christmas trees. But there is no warning on the can that it is highly inflammable."

Porth Textiles, Britain's biggest producer of decorations and plastic Christmas trees, was put into the hands of the receiver earlier this month with £8m debts. The company said yesterday that the can carried the obligatory warning against spraying near a naked flame. Mr Gareth Evans, its quality control manager, said that string contained resins and solvent and might remain flammable for up to two hours while the solvent remained wet. After that it would become crumbly and non-flammable.

There had been "no reports whatsoever" of fires involving silly string.

Mr Collins, however, has found that it was possible to set light to the string two days after it was sprayed.

Householders were also warned yesterday about dangerously high lead and chromium levels in paint on toys imported from Hongkong. Trading standards officers in Merseyside found up to 43 times the maximum safe lead levels on toys on which bear the name "Shekema".

Special precautions against extra fire risks at Christmas were called for yesterday. The Home Office advises householders to keep all decorations well clear of fires and lights, check plugs and wiring and provide plenty of ashtrays.

# 'Christmas in custody' drink-drive warning

By Michael Horsnell

The chairman of Grays magistrates in Essex, who have jailed 11 motorists for drinking and driving in the past week, gave a warning yesterday that offenders could spend Christmas in custody.

Mr Charles Noad, aged 63, a retired businessman, said: "We can not let false sentimentality stand in our way, despite the approach of Christmas. The fact that you are a first offender does not give you a licence to drink and drive and expect the courts to be lenient."

"So far as discrepancies are concerned, courts have to look at the gravity of the offence and the alcohol reading. But it would be helpful if there were greater consistency throughout the country."

"Disqualification and fineing were not having the required effect. We would like to stop it being respectable to drink and drive. It is a most anti-social activity which causes death and serious injury."

Earlier yesterday, David Jones, aged 21, was sentenced to two days in a police cell, fined £300 and banned from driving for 18 months by the presiding magistrate, Mr George Walsham.

Jones, an electrician, from South Ockendon, Essex, crashed through a garden hedge after a Guy Fawkes party. An intoximeter showed that he had 63 micrograms of alcohol per 100 millilitres of breath - the legal limit is 35 micrograms.

His mother, Mrs Joyce Jones, aged 47, said afterwards: "I think it is disgusting. Admittedly he was over the limit, but not all that much. The fine would have been quite enough."

Earlier, Mr Walsham fined Mark Corthine, aged 22, a test driver for Ford, £250 for driving with 54 micrograms of alcohol. Corthine, from Stanford le Hope, Essex, was also disqualified from driving for 15 months.

He said afterwards: "The crack-down is diabolical. The police should tell people before they introduce these new measures."

He said that the wide variation in sentencing by courts tempted more people to drink and drive. "It is important that the drivers know they will be imprisoned."

Mr Edward Taylor, Conservative MP for Southend East, called yesterday for the introduction of mandatory prison sentences for drink-drive offences (the Press Association reports).

# Costs disputed in shoplifting case

A magistrate refused costs to Tesco, the supermarket chain, yesterday when it dropped a charge against a widow, aged 73 - but he changed his decision after prosecution protests.

Mrs Hilda Cleavley, of Bentworth Road, Bethnal Green, had been accused at Thames Magistrates' Court of stealing groceries worth £2.74.

Mr Paul Jones, prosecuting, said Tesco would drop the charge if Mrs Cleavley agreed to be bound over. Mrs Cleavley agreed and was bound over for one year.

The magistrate, Sir Bryan Roberts, refused costs over a case involving £2.74.

Mrs Cleavley said she had intended pleading not guilty and electing trial but accepted the binding order to avoid further pressure.

Mr Jones re-applied for cost, accusing Sir Bryan of issuing a thieves' charter and punishing Tesco for its compassion.

He argued that costs could be refused only if the prosecution had misconducted itself. He said the store detective saw Mrs Cleavley place goods from the shelves in her bag without paying.

# The cost of 2 damaged young lives

Two young men who are severely handicapped after being injured in road accidents were yesterday awarded damages in two separate cases in the High Court.

Mr John Fitzgerald, aged 20, of Canterbury Road, Morden, Surrey, was awarded £318,168 for injuries he received when a car in which he was a passenger crashed in October, 1980.

Patrick Mahoney, aged 17, of Clark Street, Whitechapel, east London, was awarded £204,930 after he was knocked down by a crash on a pelican crossing in August, 1976.

Mr Fitzgerald was 17 when he suffered irreversible brain damage which impaired his memory and concentration.

He will never be able to go back to his job as an apprentice carpenter or enjoy table tennis and judo, at which excelled.

Mr Justice Park, who made the award, said that before the accident Mr Fitzgerald had been "lively, vivacious and enterprising, had a pleasant personality and was a smashing kid with a lovely sense of humour".

Now he was only able to do simple tasks and relied on the devotion of his father, Mr Fredrick Fitzgerald, aged 64, and in most respects would be helpless without him. When his father was no longer capable of caring for him he would need a full-time nurse, the judge said.

The damages are to be paid by the driver of the car in which Mr Fitzgerald was a rear seat passenger when it skidded, demolished a road sign and lamp post and then overturned in London Road, Morden, the driver, Mr Kevin White, of Chester Gardens, Morden, admitted liability.

Patrick Mahoney was 10 years old and on his way to swimming baths near his home when a coach struck him as he walked across the pelican crossing.

Head injuries initially left him totally paralysed but he has since regained some movement in his right leg and left arm.

Mr Justice Skinner, who made the award, said that Patrick was 25 per cent to blame because he failed to look properly.

The damages are to be paid by the owners of the coach, Frank Harris Coaches, of Grays, Essex, who admitted liability.

# Costs inquiry urged for universities

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

A Rayner-style inquiry into the efficiency of the universities has been proposed by Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education, at the direct prodding of the Prime Minister, who is known to be dubious about their parsimony.

The proposal, to be discussed further next month by civil servants, the University Grants Committee and the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals (CVCP), is that a firm of outside consultants, such as Peck, Marwick and Mitchell, or Arthur Anderson, would look at the management of a number of universities.

The CVCP is most anxious that any such inquiry should be conducted under the aegis of the universities, but this may not meet with government approval. Although the universities, which eat up £1,400m of public funds annually, are not shunning an inquiry, they do feel they have examined themselves rigorously in the past few years and have cut back as much as they can.

The idea at present is that the inquiry would look at whether the universities provide value for money, but it is not thought likely that staff performance or quality of research would be examined. Items such as estate management and building maintenance would be looked at, as would staff-student ratios.

There are known to be wide disparities in these ratios between institutions in the same subject. Mrs Margaret Thatcher is said to view the universities with some disfavour and to feel that they teach subjects which are not academically rigorous.

She is also understood to be impatient with the universities' pleas for money. There is no certainty, however, that an exercise of the kind Lord Rayner conducted in the Civil Service would produce recommendations for savings. It might say that aspects of the university system were seriously underfunded.

The idea for the review, which was raised at last week's private meeting between Sir Keith and the CVCP, will probably also encompass the way in which resources are allocated by the universities. The decision-making mechanisms of institutions will also come under scrutiny.

Mr Brian Taylor, secretary to the CVCP, said they were prepared for anyone to look at their efficiency, because they were efficient.

"But we want to find a way in which this can be done under the aegis of the universities", he said.

An efficiency survey of the universities would differ from previous Rayner-style inquiries in that it is felt it could not be carried out by civil servants. In order to carry authority with all concerned it would need to be conducted by a respected group of specialists from outside government.

# Duke seeks return of heirlooms

The Duke of Manchester yesterday won the first round of his High Court battle with his elderly stepmother for the return of missing family heirlooms. The Vice-Chancellor, Sir Robert Megarry, ordered an inquiry to find out what heirlooms are left and where they are.

The missing heirlooms, said to be worth millions of pounds, include paintings by Holbein and Van Dyke, and the Duke aged 54, claims them as his right under a family trust, set up in 1923 by his grandfather.

But the Dowager Duchess of Manchester, now in her seventies, and living in Eaton Square, Belgravia, claims that any possessions she has inherited when the tenth Duke died, aged 75, in 1977.

The matter was adjourned to the new year for further argument. The case has already lasted 11 days. The eleventh Duke, who lives in Kenya, was not in court.

# Police chief guilty of 'kerb-crawling'

The head of Lincolnshire fraud squad was bound over to be of good behaviour for 12 months yesterday after being convicted of "kerb-crawling" in Nottingham's red light district.

Det Chief Insp Robert Warner, aged 49, who had denied the offence at Nottingham Magistrates' Court, agreed to be bound over with a surety of £100.

Mr David Blundell, for the prosecution, said that Warner was cautioned after approaching Jane Walker, who was in plainclothes and on vice squad duty in Hyson Green last September.

Warner, a father of three, from Welton, near Lincoln, told the court that he had realized immediately that WPC Walker, aged 30, was a police woman.

Mr Blundell said that Warner approached her and asked her how much it would be for "straight sex".

But Warner said that he thought that WPC Walker had been attacked by a man in Hardy Street and had asked if he could help her.

"I was not kerb crawling in the general sense. I was going down the street slowly stopping and starting."

He said that he had lost his way in Nottingham while travelling from Lincoln to Ilkeston. He told the court: "I

# Detectives praised for not shooting gunman

Flying Squad detectives were praised by a judge yesterday for their restraint in not firing back at a "mad criminal" who was firing a sawn-off shotgun at them.

Judge Brian Gibbons told the Central Criminal Court that if they had done so people in the crowded Chapel Market, Islington, north London, could have been killed. He congratulated Det Sergeant Kelly, aged 30, for his courage in disarming him.

James Daly, aged 29, of Mora Street, Islington, suspected of having IRA links, was jailed for 17 years.

He was convicted of conspiring to rob security guards in Chapel Market and shooting Det Kelly in the face.

Daly, wanted for questioning in connexion with a £100,000 robbery in Dublin in which two policemen were shot, was also found guilty of shooting and robbing a security guard, Christopher Sandford, of £10,000 outside a bank in Penge, south London.

The judge said that Mr Sandford, aged 28, had only survived because a doctor and a nurse were near by. He still had 90 pellets in his stomach.



Det Sergeant Kelly: Disarmed "mad criminal".

# Woodlands threatened

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Britain's remaining ancient woodlands are being destroyed at a rate unprecedented in peacetime, a report published today claims.

In some counties up to 60 per cent of the semi-natural woodland cover has been removed since the war, a high proportion of that in the past 15 years.

The report is published by the British Association of Nature Conservationists and its author, Mr Richard Grove, says there is a developing crisis in the relationship between forestry and nature conservation.

Decisions made in the near future will determine the form of the British countryside for a long time to come.

The Future for Forestry (BANF, c/o Rectory Farm, Stanton St John, Oxford, OX3).

Rhododendrons, for which Snowdonia is famous, are choking new growth in woods and forests. The Snowdonia national park authority is sending letters to youth hostels and tourist centers explaining why it is necessary to keep the spread in check.

# Punks chop logs for old people

Out-of-work "punks" in Guildford, Surrey, have got together with local police to help the town's elderly for Christmas by chopping and distributing logs.

Police constable Daniel Glover was impressed by his team's efforts. "They are just ordinary people who express themselves by their appearance, and this example proves to others that they are capable of being very constructive", he said.

# Park keeper saves child from sex attack 'menace'

A man who has spent 28 years in jail for offences against boys was sentenced to another six years' imprisonment at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

The woman park keeper who rescued his latest victim was praised for her "courage and quick thinking". Carl Lundbeck, aged 48, whose longest period of freedom since he was first jailed has been nine months, was a menace to boys, Judge Nina Lowry said.

Lundbeck was convicted of child stealing, and attempted gross indecency after an attack on a boy aged nine in Acton, west London. The child, Lundbeck's 26th young victim, was snatched from the street as he went to a fish shop. Lundbeck dragged him across a park and into a lavatory.

But before any sex assault could take place, the boy's cries were heard by Mrs Anne Ling, the park warden, who ran to his rescue. Mrs Ling, aged 48, comforted the weeping boy.

Mrs Ling: praised in court.

when Lundbeck fled. She remembered everything she could about the assailant and was able to pick him out later at an identification parade.

Judge Lowry said it was "merciful" that Mrs Ling came on the scene and acted as she did.

# Doris Archer actress dies, aged 77

By David Hewson Arts Correspondent

Gwen Berryman, the actress who created one of radio's best-loved characters, the Ambridge matriarch Doris Archer, has died, aged 77, in a Torquay hospital.

Miss Berryman played the role for 29 years until ill health forced her to retire in 1980. The programme attracted a huge audience when Doris Archer died in an armchair in October, 1980, much of it a tribute to an actress who for millions made the character a real person.

Mr Tony Shryane, who produced more than 7,000 episodes of *The Archers* from its start in 1951, said: "She made the character of Doris Archer a national figure, loved and respected by millions. She was a courageous woman who, though often in considerable pain from arthritis, never let it interfere with her work."

In 1981 Miss Berryman was made an MBE.

Obituary, page 12

# Guided buses recall age of the tram

By Michael Bailly Transport Editor

Birmingham hopes to launch a new age of the tram with a "guided bus" due to start in the spring.

Instead of having steel wheels on rails, the otherwise conventional double-deck bus will run along a concrete track. Vertical parapets on either side will steer the bus by means of small guidewheels extending from the front axle.

A half-mile experimental track is being constructed along a disused tramway on the central reservation of a dual carriageway road in an inner suburb, and if successful it will be extended elsewhere in the city.

The idea is to slice through urban congestion at far lower cost than a tram or light railway. The city's earlier tramway system, abolished in the 1950s, was one of the finest in the world.

At either end of the guideway, buses will simply drive on and off, continuing through the city in the normal way. A special dispensation is needed from the Department of Transport for the guidewheels projecting three inches.

A similar system, developed by Daimler-Benz in Germany, is operating in Essen and is being installed in Adelaide, Australia. Birmingham chose to develop its own system with the help of Metro-Cammell Wayman and Guest, Keen, Nottelhoff. Total initial cost is £500,000.

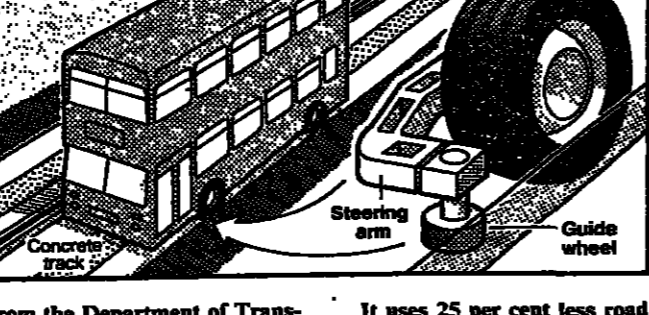
It has four advantages, according to Mr Bob Crawford, director of planning and engineering at the West Midlands Passenger Transport Executive.

It uses 25 per cent less road space than a conventional bus route, because the guide system confines the bus to a limited track. That will be important if new guideways are built on congested roads.

The reserved track will permit faster doublings and improved punctuality. While on the track, buses will not be affected by congestion.

The raised guideways, about six inches high, will stop motorists wandering on to the track, as they do on a conventional bus-lane.

Buses can be used flexibly on or off guideways, unlike trams.



# Monopoly study into franking machine firms

By Derek Harris Commercial Editor

Two companies dominating the postal franking machine market, Pitney Bowes, of which Mr Denis Thatcher, the Prime Minister's husband, is a director, and Roneo Alcatel, are to be investigated by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission following many complaints to the Office of Fair Trading.

The investigation will also include Hasler (Great Britain), a subsidiary of a Swiss company, but Pitney Bowes and Roneo Alcatel, which are both foreign-owned, together account for 95 per cent of franking machines in use in many companies to imprint postage values on envelopes to avoid the use of postage stamps.

Pitney Bowes is the British subsidiary of Pitney Bowes Incorporated in the United States and Roneo Alcatel is part of France's Generale d'Electricite.

# Youth accused of bomb hoax

Andrew Brown, aged 19, a despatch rider, was remanded on £500 bail until December 28 at Bow Street Magistrates' Court, London yesterday, charged with making a bomb hoax call. The court forbade him to go within two miles of the street from which he is said to have telephoned.

Mr Brown, of Stainer Close, Sholing, near Southampton, is accused of telling police there was a bomb in Blackfriars on Tuesday.

# Parking meters' £133m takings

British parking meters have taken £133,470,000 from motorists since they were introduced 25 years ago, the Royal Automobile Club says.

According to a survey by the RAC, there were 52,720 meters in Britain at the end of March, 400 fewer than last year.

Operating costs have more than doubled since 1978.

PARLIAMENT December 21 1983

Radioactive leak case referred to DPP

POLLUTION The series of abnormal discharges of radioactive matter from the Sellafield plant of British Nuclear Fuels Ltd in Cumbria last month has been brought to the attention of the Director of Public Prosecutions with whom the Department of the Environment and the Health and Safety Executive are cooperating. Announcing this in a Commons statement, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, said the most important thing was to prevent the repetition of such an incident and both the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate and the DOE have notified BNFL of the further measures they wished the company to take.



Warren: Increased danger from sea spray

prevent the early publication of the two reports. On the question of lower discharge limits, from the first statement I made on the subject it is indeed our intention to work for substantially lower authorizations. I repeat now that if the circumstances seem appropriate we are certainly open to consider still further lower authorizations so this plant complies and has to comply with the best world standards for the discharge of radioactivity.

Effect of tour on Commonwealth

SPORT The proposed English Rugby Union tour of South Africa would have damaging repercussions throughout the Commonwealth, Mr Neil Macfarlane, Minister for Sport, said during a question time exchange in the Commons. Anyone who underestimated the impact on Commonwealth sport seriously underestimated the current situation, he added.

Pantomimes among the loony left

RATES The nexus between rates and votes had become pretty slender in some areas, which happened to be those dominated by extreme left wing Labour councillors, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, said during questions in the Commons about rates.

Take wins battle to keep spoils in Waterloo... When shot... erupts... broken... The Government's war on quangos claimed 82 victims last year, a cut of about 5 per cent.

Repatiation of prisoners

HOUSE OF LORDS The Government had no intention of putting itself in a position where it could be browbeaten into an exchange of prisoners, Lord Elton, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, assured Peers during the second reading debate on the Repatriation of Prisoners Bill in the House of Lords.

Extension of right to buy

HOUSING The Government's "right to buy" provisions have been extended to tenants of county council owned homes no longer required for operational purposes under a new clause and associated amendments added by the Commons to the Housing and Building Control Bill.

Call for regional bodies

LIBERAL BILL Mr Paddy Ashdown (Yeovil, L) was given leave in the Commons under the 10-minute rule procedure to bring forward a Bill to establish regional assemblies in England.

Tory MPs say housing benefit cut will hit million pensioners

By Kenneth Gosling More than 1,250,000 pensioners will be worse off because of proposed cuts in housing benefit, a group of Conservative MPs told Mr Rhodes Boyson, Minister for Social Security, last night.

Table showing Pensioner households affected by housing benefit cuts. Columns: Loss £, Pensioner households affected. Rows: 0.00-0.50 (700,000), 0.51-0.75 (170,000), 0.76-1.00 (120,000), 1.01-1.25 (80,000), 1.26-1.50 (50,000), 1.51-2.00 (30,000), 2.01-3.00 (20,000), 3.01-4.00 (30,000), 4.01-5.00 (20,000).



Key move: Gary Kasparov, the chess grand master (standing), punches his move into an Acorn BBC Micro-computer in a simultaneous match against ten chess juniors at Acorn's London showrooms yesterday.

Spending 'debate' criticized

By Peter Hennessy Sir Leo Pliatzky, former Permanent Secretary at the Department of Trade, who ran the Treasury's spending divisions in the 1970s, criticized the Government yesterday for failing to produce figures to back up its promised "great debate" on funding the welfare state.

Community radio affected by grant loss

An experiment to make broadcasting more accessible to people, including community groups, will be affected by the withdrawal next month of funding by the Government's Manpower Services Commission (MSC).

Charities' income soars

Charities are celebrating a bumper Christmas this year, with income well above last year's record. The British Heart Foundation yesterday reported a 17.5 per cent increase on last year.

Italian loses extradition appeal on murder charges

An alleged international terrorist most wanted in Italy to stand trial for the murder of two Rome policemen, a High Court judge ruled in London yesterday.

"When I've finished the paper, I'll think about sending money to the NSPCC."

"I'll definitely send some money to the NSPCC this week."

Duke wins battle to keep spoils of Waterloo

Brussels (Reuters) - The Duke of Wellington emerged triumphant from a new Battle of Waterloo yesterday.

Royal plea for rare monkey

Geneva - The Duke of Edinburgh, as president of the World Wildlife Fund International, has appealed for the return to their natural habitat in Brazil of 24 golden-headed lion tamarins.

Fined for ghost in plumbing

Regensburg (AP) - A West German dentist and his wife were fined DM12,400 (about \$3,200) for staging a poltergeist hoax.

Desert attack

Algiers (AFP) - The Moroccan Army has launched a new offensive in the Western Sahara, according to their Polisario Front opponents.

Gang held

Catanzaro (AP) - Police arrested 51 people in a crackdown on organized criminal groups in the southern Calabria region.

Bus rescue

Vaduz (AP) - Liechtenstein has introduced cheaper bus fares to make public transport more attractive to those who use the 13,498 cars in the principality.

High notes

Perth (Reuters) - An English entertainer, Peter Maxwell, is claiming a world altitude record for piano playing in a hot-air balloon after going through a medley of old favourites at a height of 5,926 ft.

10 women shot

Ankara (AP) - A farmer in Alibeyli village, east of Ankara, yesterday shot and killed his wife, three daughters and a woman relative and wounded five women neighbours.

Volcano erupts

Tokyo (AP) - Kusatsu-Shirane (7,095ft) - 50 miles north-west of Tokyo, erupted yesterday for the third time this year.

Siege broken

Khartoum (AP) - The Sudanese Government claims its army has broken a rebel siege of the southern town of Nasir, killing 480 rebels.

Correction

Protesters in Damascus were barred from routes to the American and French embassies, not to the Israeli embassy as reported on December 14.

President's first press conference since Beirut massacre

Reagan says Marines will stay

From Nicholas Ashford Washington

The nationally televised press conference which President Reagan held at the White House on Tuesday night has underscored the growing concern both within the Administration and among the public about America's role in Lebanon.



Mr Reagan: Cheerful mood, stumbling replies.

Sir Geoffrey: To make a long overdue visit.

Signor Spadolini: Careful choice of words.

When and under what circumstances would the 1,800 marines be withdrawn from Beirut?

Mr Reagan, who appeared festively cheerful but whose stumbling replies betrayed a certain discomfort at having to weave his way through a minefield of politically dangerous questions.

He reaffirmed his determination to keep the Marines in Lebanon because the region was too important to the security of the West "to just turn away."

On three separate occasions he said that the presence of the four-nation peacekeeping force in Beirut had allowed progress to be made both in the Lebanese national reconciliation talks and in building-up the strength of the Lebanese Army.

However, despite his contention that domestic American politics would not have any impact on his policy towards Lebanon, he failed to dispel the widely held view that the Marines would be withdrawn well before next year's presidential elections.

Challenged to explain a recent remark by him that the Marines could be pulled back if there was a total collapse of order in Lebanon, he admitted that he had used "a bad choice of words".

However, the President said that perhaps there was a complete change of course to the place where we were no longer asked to be there, that would be a reason for bringing them out.

The President parried questions about a highly critical report by a House armed services sub-committee into the Beirut bombing which stated that "very serious errors of judgment" by senior officers on the ground and up through the chain of command, had left the Marines vulnerable to attack.

Mr Reagan attempted to use the conference to explain why it was necessary for the Marines to be in Lebanon.

Mr Reagan defended the recent US-Israeli agreement on strategic cooperation saying that it was simply a reaffirmation of a long-standing relationship which should not alarm the Arab world.

This assurance has been accepted by the leading moderate Arab country, Egypt, whose Foreign Minister yesterday delivered a message to Mr Reagan from President Mubarak.

News of the trip leaked into the Cairo press yesterday taking the Foreign Office by surprise.

with final details still to be concluded.

Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State with special responsibility for the Middle East, has made two tours of the region since the British election last June which included Syria, Lebanon and the Gulf.

A visit by Sir Geoffrey himself has been long overdue. But other issues, particularly the EEC budget, have had to take precedence.

Syria and Lebanon are the most surprising omissions from the tour, particularly in view of current fears over the safety of the Beirut multinational peacekeeping force.

As it is, Sir Geoffrey will be going to the two leading moderate Arab states, leaving Mr Donald Rumsfeld, the US special envoy in the region, to represent the Western interest to the "frontline" governments.

congressional report of intentionally putting forward misleading evidence to the sub-committee.

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● LONDON: Sir Geoffrey Howe will make his first visit to the Middle East since becoming Foreign Secretary earlier this year.

● ROME: A date is awaited for the withdrawal of a part of the Italian contingent in Lebanon after the Government's decision for a gradual reduction was announced on Tuesday (Peter Nichols writes).

Senator Giovanni Spadolini, the Minister of Defence, made his statement in reply to parliamentary questions on the Lebanon crisis.

The first phase had now passed and this, combined with good military planning, meant a partial withdrawal was feasible.

Christmas in Bethlehem

A shortage of good will to men

Surrounded by an overwhelming majority of Jews and Muslims, Christmas for Christians in the Holy Land - the place where it is all begun in a Bethlehem manger - has taken on a beleaguered air, redeemed more by the authenticity of the locations rather than any inspirational quality they may still possess.

Bethlehem, sometimes referred to grandiloquently as the Sheffield of Palestine because of its preponderance of small workshops, is now warring its seventeenth successive Christmas under Israeli military occupation.

Already this year Bethlehem's Arab University has been temporarily closed by military edict after a fierce anti-Israeli riot, while the town's main Palestinian refugee camp has been the scene of repeated, ugly stoning attacks against Jewish vehicles.

In case such grim matters should be conveniently overlooked in the spirit of the festive season, Mr Elias Freij, the town's portly and astute Arab Mayor, is on hand to provide the stream visiting journalists with a Christmas message subtly laced with the complexities of West Bank politics.

When I visited his ornate town hall, he was standing on the balcony telling ABC television about the urgent need for Jordanian-Israeli peace talks, while correspondents from Newsweek and US News and World Report hovered in a room near by.

minutes to midnight", he said. "Palestinians in the West Bank are aware that very soon they will have nothing left to talk about."

Back in Israel proper, the second most favourite Christmas site of Nazareth has also been experiencing problems which speak little of peace on Earth or good will to men.

The campaign to keep the area exclusively Jewish is headed by a local association whose aim, in the emotive words of one Israeli journalist, is to maintain their area of the biblical town Arabfrei.

Other traditional customs abound, although most of the do-it-yourself basis that is the best guarantee here of a satisfactory result.

But all-in-all, the abounding Christmas mood in the cities that the carols were written about is one of austerity combined with apprehension about the immediate future, especially the prospect of a new Middle East war.

Christopher Walker

Ex-guerrilla arrested on return to Argentina

From Our Correspondent Buenos Aires

Señor Ricardo Obregón Cano, a former leader of the Peronist guerrilla group, the Montoneros, has been arrested after returning to Argentina from exile to announce the dissolution of the organization.

Señor Obregón Cano, who was Governor of Córdoba province during the Peronist Government in 1973, said the Montoneros would in future pursue their left-wing ideology through a Peronist-associated political party.

He was arrested upon arrival from Brazil on Tuesday, after eight years in exile, on charges including illicit association and verbal incitement to violence.

President Alfonsín issued a decree last week calling for the trial of seven suspected terrorist leaders, including Señor Obregón Cano, for their part in the bloodshed of the past decade.

The decision is believed to have been an attempt to offset the political repercussions of a simultaneous decree ordering nine former military to be court-martialed.

The Montoneros group was originally formed by right-wing nationalists in 1969.

The Montoneros burst on to the Argentine political scene in 1970, when they kidnapped and murdered General Pedro Aramburu, one of the leaders of the military regime which had overthrown President Juan Perón in 1955.

During the early 1970s the group adopted a left-wing ideology and recruited mainly young, middle-class Argentines.

With the return of General Perón as President of Argentina in 1973, the Montoneros entered into bloody conflict with armed right-wing sectors of the Peronist movement who had links with some military and police officers.

The Montoneros' subsequent part in killing hundreds of military and police personnel was used as a justification by the military for the 1976 coup against the constitutional Government of General Perón's widow, Señora Isabel Perón.

The latest military officer to be charged with human rights violations during the seven years of military rule is former President Reynaldo Bignone, less than two weeks after he formally handed over the Government to civilians.



Bouncing back: Bob Hope, flanked by actresses Cathy Lee Crosby (left) and Ann Jillian, before leaving California for the Middle East, where he will entertain American servicemen. The comedian has been heavily criticized recently over the collapse of the Bob Hope British Classic golf tournament.

'Mad' superpowers denounced

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

An impassioned plea for the United States and the Soviet Union to draw back from nuclear confrontation and return to the negotiating table was made by Señor Jorge Illueca of Panama, the president of the United Nations General Assembly, as he closed his 38th session.

He also renewed an appeal to Presidents Reagan and Andropov to join other members at a summit meeting of the Security Council and reverse the arms race, which he said had gathered an irrational momentum of its own, going beyond the control and will of either side.

Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick, the US representative, took a more optimistic view. She had particular kind words for the Anglo-American alliance, emphasizing that, despite divergences on some votes, including the Falklands and Grenada, relations between the two were "just excellent".

Fear of nuclear war

'Mad' superpowers denounced

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

Canada late this winter. Operation Dismantle says the tests will contribute to the arms race and increase the risk.

● BONN: Mr Peter Varkey, the Hungarian Foreign Minister, told Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, his opposite number here, that Hungary regarded the Stockholm disarmament conference as a very important, and he gave a clear hint that he would attend the opening on January 17 (Michael Binyon writes).

● GENEVA: The controversy on deployment of cruise and Pershing 2 is marked by "lack of rational argument and too much emotion", Dr Joseph Luns, the Secretary-General of NATO, said yesterday. He was answering questions at the Geneva Diplomatic Club (Alan McGregor writes).

Poles will not see 'Day After' film

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

After weeks of backroom political wheeling and dealing the Polish authorities have decided against showing The Day After, the controversial American television film about nuclear war.

For some time it seemed as if the Government would confound Western critics of the film by giving it prime time treatment on Polish television, thus demonstrating that Warsaw Pact countries were also capable of informing their public about the hazards of atomic war.

The US network ABC offered the film to Warsaw for a relatively small sum - under \$10,000 by some accounts - and a series of private screenings were arranged. The audiences included members of the Polish General Staff who approved the idea of showing the film to Poles.

Poles will not see 'Day After' film

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Advanced electronic equipment and in particular radio-location stations and automated systems for transmitting radar information - all this ensures conditions for the successful execution of the tasks of the missile forces and air defence interception," he said in an interview with PAP news agency.

The point was, he said, to speed up the Polish response to a Western attack and this required both coordination with neighbouring Warsaw Pact countries and efficient use of automated defence systems.

● MOSCOW: Broadcasting sources said yesterday that talks between ABC and the Soviet authorities over The Day After had been going on for several weeks without success. There was now little chance that the film would be shown in Russia (Richard Owen writes).

West Berlin gets back on the track

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

For the first time since the Second World War, West Berlin is about to gain control of the surface railway in the divided city. After two months of tough negotiations, the city authorities are on the point of signing an agreement with East Berlin to take over the derelict and bankrupt S-Bahn, administered now by the East Germans.

Under the agreement West Berlin will pay a yearly rent of DM9.5m (about £2.43m) to the Reichsbahn - the pre-war name for the railway system that is now run under the same name by the communist authorities - and will administer the 90 miles of line in West Berlin territory as a separate unit.

Permission for the new arrangement has to be obtained first from the three Western allies, but they have already indicated agreement.

The urban railway, once one of the most advanced and extensive in West Europe, is in a sorry state. With broken-down stations, old coaches and dangerously decayed bridges and track, traffic in the Western sector has all but come to a standstill, and only three lines are functioning.

After the war the allies, administering Berlin as a single unit, gave control of its railways to the Eastern sector. After the building of the Wall in 1961, West Berliners boycotted the system. Trains continued running, though no East Berliners were allowed to travel beyond the border into West Berlin. No modernization or repairs were carried out by the communist authorities, however, and the S-Bahn lost a lot of money.

May death confirmed by judge

From Our Own Correspondent Rome

Dr Alessandro Jacobone, the judge investigating the Jeanette May case, gives no credence to allegations that she and her companion, Gabriella Guerini, could still be alive and in Latin America.

Reports that they might not have died will appear this weekend in a Milan publication. Jeanette May and her friend vanished from the town of Sarnano in November, 1980. Two bodies were found in January, 1982, at Podalis, near Macerata.

"The one certainty we have is that the death of the two women took place at Podalis and the remains found there were those of the missing women," Dr Jacobone said.

Jeanette May's identification was certain and the body was allowed to be cremated, he said. In Gabriella Guerini's case, the present tests were aimed at removing any possible doubt.

The judge said there was no truth that investigators had been sent to track the women down in Latin America.

A new inquiry was opened a year ago into the deaths. The judge refuses to comment on what progress he has made.

Cash for Nazi conscripts

Mainz (AP) - Thousands of Frenchmen forced to serve in the German Army during the Second World War are to be compensated after France's decision to return German-owned land seized in 1944, officials said here yesterday.

Some 60,000 Frenchmen who were impressed into the Wehrmacht from the provinces of Alsace and Lorraine, or their relatives, will receive payments from a DM250m (£62m) fund.

The money, provided in the 1984 budget passed this month by the West German Parliament, will be transferred to the "Endowment for German-French Understanding" in Stras-bourg in three stages. The foundation will decide how to distribute the money to the surviving soldiers and relatives of others forced into German uniform, the officials said.

We could run out of money before you run out of excuses.

Before you put this newspaper down, get a pen, your cheque book (or a postal order) and send a donation to the NSPCC. It doesn't matter how much you send, the money will be used to give the chance of a normal childhood to children who've never had one. Dr A. Gilmour, NSPCC, 30324 47 Sadraan Hill, London EC2N 4RS

"I'll really try to send money to the NSPCC this year."



To bear the name *Supérieur* the wine must be of a higher quality than that of ordinary Bordeaux.



This wine is a blend of both Merlot and Cabernet grapes. It has a full-flavoured rich taste, and is ready for drinking now. So, please, don't lay it down.

Bordeaux *Supérieur* has a higher natural alcohol level than ordinary Bordeaux and is from vineyards growing fewer grapes per hectare.

This is a Bordeaux *Supérieur* from a cellar where the wine-maker has won gold medals at the last 3 national Paris competitions and 2 golds at the International competitions in Bordeaux.

Stowells of Chelsea have a Selection of 9 Wine Boxes including an Appellation Contrôlée Muscadet de Sèvre et Maine and an Amou Rose.



Stowells of Chelsea  
WINE BOX

# A bumpy ride to fantasy

## The Times Profile Roald Dahl

Roald Dahl told me that what made him a writer was a most monumental bash on the head ("we had been delving for literary sources"). Before that he had been a square young businessman working for Shell, "going around with a furred umbrella, wearing a hat and things". But then came the rude conversion.

There was a silence in his sunny, low-ceilinged Buckinghamshire farmhouse while I digested this tale of the unexpected. One clock went tick-tic, tick-tic with the deliberate malicious advance of one of the characters in his adult stories about to brain someone with a frozen leg of lamb, or inexorably swelling with treacherous geniality into a loathsome human bee. But another clock went tickety-skipetty, tick-toc, tick-toc like James whooping it up on The Giant Peach or Charlie skipping about the Chocolate factory.

For more than 30 years a renowned author of macabre short stories - *Kiss Kiss, Some Like You* - Dahl is now also one of the world's leading writers of children's books. *The Giant Peach* had a successful run as an opera at Covent Garden; *The Chocolate Factory* was made into a film with Gene Wilder, and two more, *Danny the Champion of the World* and *The BFG*, will go into production soon.

His latest book, *The Witches*, was published recently. It blows the whistle on modern witches who look just like your schoolteacher or respectable aunt, but secretly they are bald, their spit is blue as bilberry, and to the little boys smell of dogs' droppings, fresh dogs droppings.

Could such a persistently fertile imagination have been induced just by a bash on the head?

Oh, yes, he said. He had been in the RAF, in the war flying out of Libya in a Gloster Gladiator and it had hit the ground at 200mph, bashing his head off the reflector sight and flattening his nose. Having until then produced only dogged schoolboy letters, his first letter home from hospital was brilliant. He was a writer. A squashed one, but a writer.

Dahl is a very tall man with some of the stooping, anxious courtesy of Alastair Sim playing a children's

author, and much of the casual authority of the officer class.

Now 67, Dahl's life parallels in a curious way two strands of his fiction. It was full of adventure and scrumptious surprises: a 15-page children's story, *The Gremlins* (he invented the word), published in 1942 while he was a young air attaché in Washington, was such an astonishing success that he became frequent guest of Eleanor Roosevelt and FDR at the White House. This useful entrée was exploited by the boys at Whitehall who made him a spy - on the Americans. And he married a film star, Patricia Neal.

But his life also suffered blows from a particularly malicious fate.

His seven-year-old daughter contracted a rare form of measles and died. His young son was hit by a taxi in New York and suffered brain damage, and the story of Dahl's long struggle to help Patricia Neal recover from two massive strokes is well known. He's had many operations on his spine, a legacy of his plane crash.

## Fantasy is very different from fiction

Storytellers are proud and rather defensive craftsmen. Says Dahl: "Novelists write from personal experience which they then just fictionalize, all of them, without any question! But we are talking about fantasy, which is very different from fiction." Children's storywriters, perhaps mindful of the severity of their shrill-voiced clients, would not like to admit to any intellectuality. So a blow on the head is a more satisfactory literary source than Belloc, which did influence him.

And Ambrose Bierce. The first adult book that gave him the creeps was *Can Such Things Be?* "Quite a good title," Dahl said, with envious approval.

"The real stylistic influence was Hemingway," Dahl said. "The short



Dahl pensive: "The real stylistic influence was Hemingway." Photographs by Suresh Karadia

sentence, use of adjectives. I knew Hemingway well.

"The great maxim he gave me was 'When you are going good, stop writing'. Terrific, because then you can pick up again. Old Hemingway gave me that advice and said it was his invention and I told it to Henry Moore who doesn't live far from here, in Hertfordshire, and I said this must be the same with your work when you are going good, chipping away at whatever. 'Exactly' he said. 'But it wasn't Hemingway,' he said, 'I've got the book by my bed'. So the old boy went up to his bedroom, upstairs two at a time and brought down *Conversations with Goethe*. Goethe had said the same thing!"

He smiled at the notion that this trade secret was shared by so many disciplines and generations.

"I don't know where my ideas come from. Perhaps my Norwegian background is an influence. Plots just wander into my head. They are like dreams, one is terrified of losing them. Once I stopped the car and got out and wrote a word or two on the dust of the boot lid so I wouldn't forget an idea."

He spoke of the difficulty of writing children's stories, of getting it right.

"My theory," Dahl said, "is that by the time a person becomes skilful enough at his writing trade he is usually in his 30s and really has forgotten what it's like to be a child. He has lost touch with it even if he had got children of his own."

How did you manage to keep contact?

"Oh I'm a bit of a jockey fellow you know, childish on one side of me."

The characters in Dahl's adult stories are vengeful creatures, generally scoring over the other moral lepers. In one, "Pig", an innocent young man, a lapsed vegetarian, is slit up for sausage meat.

"That is an odd story," he remarked, almost as if he had not written it himself. "It's an anti-human being story."

Unlike children's stories which are full of exuberance and optimism, is Dahl expressing a kind of disgust with adults?

"I think you can't help that after a time. Unless you are doing a P. G. Wodehouse. There is an enormous difference between a child who is primarily innocent and an adult who has become venal and greedy and everything else. You know as well as I that most adults are not very likeable people. I mean, Christ, we wouldn't have six wars going on right now if they were. They are not likeable people."

This brought us to the new field entered by Dahl recently with catastrophic results; political controversy. Asked in August to review *God Cried*, an account of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, for the *Literary Review*, he plunged into a headlong attack on all Israelis, and to many it appeared an attack on Jews.

## 'Shove them all in the dock with handcuffs'

Dahl still gets abusive telephone calls. School librarians have written to say they have taken his books off their shelves, and he showed me a letter from a Leeds councillor who had sent back his child's copy of *The Enormous Crocodile*.

A close inspection of Dahl's review, entitled "Not a Chivalrous Affair", reveals a curious stylistic affinity with his children's stories. It is in fact a tale of a chivalrous young airman - Dahl

himself - flying over Lebanon and allowing young ladies in white dresses down below, drinking wine with their pilot boy friends, to run for cover before strafing the enemy airfield. Then when the Israelis plunge, without chivalry, into this same territory 40 years later they must be routed like the witches. Exuberantly! Indiscriminately!

"Shove them all in the dock with handcuffs on! You will become violently anti-Israeli when you read *God Cried*. You simply won't be able to help yourself", he wrote.

Dahl, the fiction and the fantasy writer, had refused to observe the conventions of international political debate.

Why not? "I don't care about them. You don't do things by halves."

He said he was "cross and angry" that people should accuse him of anti-Semitism. "I am not in the least anti-Semitic. And there is nothing racist in my books."

But didn't he appear to be inviting the Arab nations to rise up and annihilate Israel?

"I should have said that the Israeli Labour Party was violently against this, and given them credit for it. But it was written so fast and so emotionally. But that's beside the point. The fact remains that there were about 24,000 people, mostly civilians, killed in that war. I am angry that you cannot protest against this kind of thing without being called anti-Semitic."

He pointed out that his story *Genesis and Catastrophe* was "a cry from the heart" at the bitter irony that in the Schickelgruber family Adolf was the one male child who did survive.

He has now turned to less explosive matters: he is working on sketches of his school days.

Peter Lennon

The Witches is published by Jonathan Cape at £6.50.

Moreover... Miles Kington

## Gripping yarns on TV

In 1980 the BBC dipped into its pocket with reckless abandon and sent seven journalists across the globe to make *Great Railway Journeys*. I landed up in Peru, where I spent a lot of my time thinking that the behind-the-scenes drama of making a TV film was better value than what got on the screen. Brian Thompson landed up in India, where he must have had exactly the same notion as he chugged up and down the sub-continent, because he has now written a play called *Turning Over* which is all about a film crew and a presenter who are sent out to India to make a programme.

It's currently on at the Bush Theatre, very funny, very well acted, etc (which I can safely say as I have never met Mr Thompson). But the curious thing is that the day after I saw it, I flew out to Jordan for four days with a BBC film crew and spent most of the time wondering if it was in real life, television or a Brian Thompson play. I wasn't really with a film crew, I suppose, but following one; I've become involved with a programme about the making of the latest David Attenborough natural history epic, and the Attenborough outfit were on their very last foreign location trip after three years of rushing about.

No wild life was involved, oddly enough. They wanted to film the earliest settlement of man they could find. There were four possible candidates as sites: two in Iraq and Iran and thus too dangerous, one in Turkey but totally unphotogenic and one in Jordan. The trouble with the Jordan one was that nobody knew much about it except its name, Beidha, and the name of the woman who discovered it in 1956 and excavated it, Diana Kirkbride. Was it worth going out to film? The producer's answer to the problem, which would never have occurred to me, was to ring up Diana Kirkbride and ask her: it is worth filming?

The answer was a massive Yes, so much so that he promptly decided to ask her out as well. And that is how she and I came to be standing side by side in a rocky valley in the Jordanian desert last Tuesday, watching David Attenborough squat in the 9,000-year-old ruins.

"These neolithic men", he told the camera, "found that instead of wandering in search of crops, they could keep the seeds and scatter them on the ground to grow next year. They had turned from being nomads into farmers..."

"Hold it", said Dicky, the sound man. "We're getting birds."

You wouldn't think you could get sound pollution in the desert, but there above us, high over the cliffs, wheeled four or five ravens making harsh black noises. We shouted at them to go away. We told them we were the BBC and ordered them to shut up. We threatened them with David Bellamy. It was then the Diana Kirkbride turned to me and said: "I don't know anything about television, but it does seem odd that wildlife can be such a nuisance to people making a wildlife film."

Odd is not the word. The only reason I was there was that I was making a TV programme about the making of a TV programme. The only reason that nobody has heard of Beidha is that Diana Kirkbride does not seek publicity - in other words, nobody has ever made a TV programme about it, or her. The only reason we didn't continue filming when the ravens finally flew off is that the Bedouins' sheep and cockerels started making a noise - there was a Bedouin encampment right behind the archaeological site, with herds of goats coming and going like commuter trains. The Bedouins represented a far more ancient way of life than the one we had come to film, but we were not there to film them or ravens or Diana Kirkbride, so we didn't. Given the chance, I think I'd film Diana, especially after I overheard her say: "Cole Porter came to see us when we were excavating Petra, and we got him up the cliff but we couldn't get him down again. Wheel-chairs are very tricky on cliffs."

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The Witches is published by Jonathan Cape at £6.50.

## CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 230)

Grid for the crossword puzzle with numbers 1 through 26.

- ACROSS: 1 Crucial moment (6), 2 Ardent lover (5), 3 Systemic plan (6), 4 Bride (9), 5 Muscle twitch (3), 6 A coarser's earlier boy (7), 7 Hinder (6), 8 Archimedes, 9 Operatic solo (5), 10 exclamation (6), 11 Not him (3), 12 Dressage circle (4), 13 Headlong rush (8), 14 Unseen power broker (8,5), 15 Bullfighter (7), 16 Fundamental nature (7), 17 Naked (8), 18 Literary composition (5), 19 Test (4), 20 Expect (5), 21 Loves deeply (6), 22 Spinal (3), 23 Nutty chew (6), 24 Curved shape (5), 25 Fashionable (6), 26 Early Stone Age tool (6)

SOLUTION TO 229: ACROSS: 1 Fodder 2 Patter 3 Nile 4 Lingerie 9 Defector 12 Men 15 Plinth 16 Egress 17 Ska 19 Algorithm 24 Crevasse 25 Crop 26 Fallen 27 Dormer DOWN: 1 Funk 2 Doler 3 Relic 4 Panto 5 Trek 6 Elite 10 Etern 11 Rose 12 Maelstrom 13 Nosc 14 Apes 18 Karma 20 Lysin 21 Orud 22 Evil 23 Spurs

## Alan Franks discovers how the admen tune in to your wallet Jingling all the way to the bank

In the beginning was the carol, which begat the jingle, which begat colossal revenue for the manufacturers of cigarette lighters and Cyprus sherry. If that is a simplistic, not to say profane, version of how the season's advertising melodies came into being, remember that carolling is in essence the selling of a message, and some of the most enduring of the species are those with what is nowadays called a good hook. That may not be a phrase which would have sat easily in the vocabulary of a Stanford or a Holst, but the impulse to wrap an idea in a cadence was there none the less.

Whether you are celebrating the nativity, or a more tangible form of consumer durable, tunes are a vital ally. Small wonder then that the airtime occupied by jingles on television and radio increases by up to 20 per cent at this time of year. Contrary to popular opinion, the writing of these mini-numbers - few top the 40-second mark - is not so much a licence to print money as a punishing exercise in compliance with the demands of hi-tech production.

One of our leading jinglers, Richard Harvey, who has done much for the image of a certain tender-fresh coconut confection in a rich chocolate coating, describes the collaborative process like this: "Mostly the writers get copy from the advertising agency and say it's a load of rubbish which should be rewritten to scan. Then the agency says it must have all these words in because that's what they've agreed with the client. And after that, a fight tends to occur." The fight is usually fierce and furious; the client's unwieldy package of key selling words versus the composer's already dented self-respect. It is deep in the heart of these brawls that the reason can be found for the relentless duplication of jingles. It is not that the composers are second-rate hacks incapable of invention - quite the reverse - but that there is just half a minute in which to set a nearly uniform



number of words to music; hence the repetition of shape and tempo. Knowing that George Martin, whose arrangements gave the Beatles such sophistication, has a few skeletons jingling in his musical cupboard, I asked him what it took to succeed in the form. "It's all a question of using a tiny number of notes for their most immediate impact," he said. And then he started humming: "Murraymints, Murraymints, too good to hurry-mints... that for me remains the best of all time. Yes I know, I'm rather old. It was written by a chap called Johnny Johnson, who's even older than me." Then I hummed: "Why make haste when you can taste the hint of mint in Murraymints," and he said: "There you are. See how it stays in the memory."

I had to put the heretical question - whether Paul McCartney, his most famous protégé, was now or had ever

with almost any style, from punk (for a certain bank that likes to say yes) through to light classical (for a sound system manufacturer with show-jumping connexions) and *vox humana* (for a chocolate bar with bubbles in it).

In an industry which has seen nothing but growth from the first days of commercial TV, it sounds as though there should be rich pickings for the composers, but earnings can be little more than peanuts in the jingle. On a flat rate basis, the writers can expect from £500 for a single tune to about £5,000 for a series. As Maggie Garrard points out, you cannot forecast the catchiness of a jingle until it is launched.

At this point the too started humming: "Cook, cook, cookability, that's the beauty of gas... that's a very good example of one that turned into a long-runner. It started as a Middle of the Road arrangement, then we had the Suzy Quatro version, and now the Vivaldi. All the same tune."

One thing for which the jingle receives scant credit is its influence on "legit" pop; this sector borrows hooks and learns techniques from its mini-cousins in much the same way that the film industry benefits from commercials.

In some instances the jingle can even burst from the chrysalis and become a hit in its own right, the most famous example being Roger Greenaway's "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing," which started life as a hymn to the merits of an American fizzy drink with world sales.

The form can also be splendid training ground for composers of more substantial music. Howard Blake, whose excellent album for children, *The Snowman*, has just been released, will not thank me for reminding him, but there is a certain light ale for whose popularity his music must take much credit. I can only hope he is so hard at work on an oratorio for Plácido Domingo and the New York Philharmonic that he will not be reading this.

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Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including "The", "Tales of", "Simon Bolivar", "1783-1983", and "Montgomery-Massingberd".



BOOKS

Fiona MacCarthy reviews the life of John Gray, possibly the model for Dorian Gray The young decadent who saw the Catholic light

In the Dorian Mode By Brocard Sewell (Tabb House, Padstow, £18)

When in the year 2000 the neglected masterpieces of the past century are finally assembled, among them will be Park, John Gray's 'fantastic story', a short and dreamlike novel of extraordinary brilliance, in which the hero, Dr Mungo Park, dies and reawakes and seems to find himself in an England of the future inhabited by a new race of black Catholics, who are technically tremendously sophisticated, while the rosette-like descendants of degenerate white Englishmen live underground in wonderfully excavated caverns. 'A thoroughly weird business, typical of its author,' wrote Eric Gill, Park's printer, in 1931. The true weirdness of John Gray, a Canon of the Catholic Church in Edinburgh, has still perhaps to be appreciated fully. But Brocard Sewell's Life is a very good beginning, a most fascinating story sympathetically told.

Dowson's in the style of the French symbolists; a hang-over of Wilde's, and possibly the model for the Dorian Gray of Oscar's novel. John Gray anyway made the most of the connexion, and signed his letters 'Dorian' to Wilde and other friends. All the more surprising to find him, some years later, a parish priest in Edinburgh: no ordinary priest but a priest of an almost legendary decorum whose genuflection at the words 'Et incarnatus est' in the Creed was, agreed the experts, a lesson in reverence. Two Archbishops and the whole cathedral chapter of St Andrew's and Edinburgh, with a hundred other priests and sorrowful parishioners, crowded into his church for the pontifical Requiem Mass in June 1934, when John Gray died.

Brocard Sewell describes well these two strange, contrasted worlds. He is good on the shimmering equivocal literature of the fin-de-siècle: the Café Royal society and the Uranian underworld in which John Gray once moved; the sophisticated friendships with such esoteric couples as Ricketts and Shannon (Ricketts bound Gray's poems, Silverpoint), and the female 'versicles' (the word is Ernest



John Gray circa 1892

A right to browse

Blackwell's 1879-1979 By A. L. F. Norrington (Blackwell, £12.50)

Not all bookshops approve of browsing. But in Blackwell's of Oxford, it is a constitutional right, printed and posted on the wall. The rubric begins: 'When you visit Blackwell's no one will ask what you want. You are free to ramble where you will; to handle any goods; in short, to browse at leisure. The staff are at your service when you need them; but unless you look to them, they will leave you undisturbed. You are equally welcome whether you come to buy or browse.'

Oddly, neither the wall rubric nor Sir John's reminiscence is included in Sir Arthur Norrington's history of the firm. But just about everything else is. It is a dry read, full of those tribute-paying passages to which such histories are prone. ('He was one of the kindest, sweetest-natured and most cheerful of men, ready to turn a hand to any job. His neat handwriting was an example to everyone, and his maps, diagrams, and marginal drawings were used extensively in the production of Carter and Brentnall's Geography series *Map the World Over*...')

The Right to Browse is one of the great benefits Blackwell's conferred on the Oxonian booklover. The other was their wonderful clemency in the matter of presenting their bills. Benjamin Jowett of Balliol was already taking advantage of this in Victoria's reign: the folio *Diodorus Siculus* which he bought for 7s 6d in November 1879 was not paid for until March 1881.

Occasionally Sir Arthur Norrington rewards one for staying with his dense narrative, by a nice literary anecdote. We learn how Verne gave a lecture in Blackwell's, threading his way through 'un dédale de chambres regorgeant de livres'; how the assistant Fred Chuddy was privileged to see Lewis Carroll bend down clad only in a 'cutty-sark' shirt; and how Hilaire Belloc ended a row with Benjamin Henry by composing him a motto, *Servare Castitas nigra de frontibus saevius* (From the Black Walls draw ye the Masses' draughts).

Bevis Hillier

Another great game

A Hitch or Two in Afghanistan By Nigel Ryan (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £8.95)

In August 1982 Sandy Gall, known to TV-watchers, invited camera man Charles Morgan, sound engineer Tom Murphy and Nigel Ryan author of this book to lunch at Bertelli's in Charlotte Street (what a lot of plots have been hatched in Bert's) to discuss an expedition to film Ahmed Shah Massud, a young resistance leader and his Mujahideen operating against the Russians in the Panjshir valley, north-east of Kabul in Afghanistan.

The planning had to be secret because the expedition would have to make an unauthorized crossing of the Pakistan frontier. They chose as cover story the making of a tourist film about Swat, but this was blown when Gall was recognized in the plane by a man who proved to be none other than the Ruler of Swat. From then on there were snares of every description and at every turn. An unexpected ten-day foot-slog across a desert was one of them. Some TV crews may be commando trained, Ryan was not. Sandy Gall radiated confidence, but very soon they were all hungry, in spite of supplementary raisins and soup-mix.

This is a thoroughly readable, sometimes amusing and sad, but wholly absorbing story. Once or twice its pace slackens in points of physical progress it was always dead slow and Ryan was invariably last in the convoy, using his horse's tail as a ski-lift until spotted and scolded by the Mujahideen horsemaster.

In a book of 210 pages the party did not make contact with Massud until page 100, by which time they had lost all their TV equipment. Sandy Gall remained confident that all would be well. Finally even he gave up hope; and I must say that I did too; and then the equipment miraculously appeared. Three of four weeks filming time had gone, but they made their film, saw some action and were bombed. Then they had to get back over the mountains and that was another hungry story, exacerbated by frayed tempers and a desperate shortage of cash.

Gontran Goulden

Anyone who's too mean to serve Smirnoff will want to make use of this sign.

Scale of charges: Reindeer per hour £2, Sledges per hour £3. SMIRNOFF logo.

SMIRNOFF logo with text: IF IT ISN'T SMOOTH IT ISN'T SMIRNOFF.

Grove for the home

The New Oxford Companion to Music Edited by Denis Arnold (Oxford, £30)

The New Oxford Companion to Music, a refurbished version of Percy A. Scholes' original work, has to be Grove for the Home. At £50, or £37.50 if you nip in and buy it before the end of January, instead of £1,100 it is markedly cheaper. And it does take up rather less shelf room: two volumes, admittedly weighty ones, instead of twenty. Quite a lot of the contributors are shared, a mixture of critics whose names are familiar in the Dailies and Sundays and academics who are careful to confine themselves to learned comment.

To check out one's special interests first and the opera sections are not among the best in the OCM. There is, for instance, no clear editorial line on providing synopses for standard works. *Il trovatore* and *Les Troyens*, on tassing T, each get a scene by scene outline of the plot while *Otello*, arguably the greatest of Italian operas, is dismissed in ten lines with the comment: '... the opera follows Shakespeare closely, although the Venetian first act is omitted.'

John Higgins

Pevsner of the elm

Elm By R.H. Richens (Cambridge, £35)

Elm. Just like that. Not even a definite article, let alone a subtitle, and only the briefest of publisher's blurbs, as though this were not the sort of book that anyone could be seriously expected to buy.

Welsh borders, made its own way here sometime in the aftermath of the last Ice Age. The more familiar Field Elm, of which there are many varieties, was brought here and planted either for decorative purposes or because of its splendid versatility as a raw material.

John Young

Getting id and ego right

Freud and Man's Soul By Bruno Bettelheim (Chatto & Windus, £6.95)

'Freud,' wrote Thomas Mann 'writes a highly picturesque prose. He is an artist of thought, like Schopenhauer, and, like him, a European author.'

science' and played down its humanist, philosophical tradition. The Greek psyche is the German Seele which the English standard edition refers steadily to as 'mental life'. Freud, Bettelheim suggests, 'chose the term (Seele) because of its inexactitude, its emotional resonance.'



Bettelheim gives several examples of words where James Strachey coined new Greek or Latin-derived terms to represent words which in Freud

Madonna and Child by Andrea della Robbia in the Metropolitan Museum, New York, from Carols for Christmas, compiled and arranged by David Willocks (Gollancz, £9.95).

Bits of the best of British fiction of the year

A Christmas Feast Edited by James Hale (Macmillan, £8.95)

This Christmas fare, prepared by Macmillan to replace its long-standing *Winter's Tales*, has all the fascination of a fresh pack of quality goodies. Although there are still some excellent short stories, the bulk of the book is composed of chapters taken from novels which the editor takes to be the Best of British for the year.

complaining 'You're not the one I was calling,' Christ replies: 'I am the one who came though.' Another book I hadn't read and feel I now will is William Cooper's *Scenes from Later Life*. The title recalls Cooper's earliest work, which must surely have influenced both Amis and Wain, but whose own reputation has trailed a little. This piece about the awkwardness between a middle-aged son and his 92-year-old mother in hospital, is written with warmth and pain as well as a sense of human absurdity.

Tales of Abbot's Ale

Greene King By Richard G Wilson (The Bodley Head & Cape, £10)

It is generally a bad sign when you are reviewing a book if you fall asleep with the volume open in your hands. I am sorry to say that this happened to me twice in the course of reading this sound account of the East Anglian brewers, Greene King by a lecturer in Economics and Social History at the local University. No, I had not been drinking 'Abbot' or 'IPA', two of the strongest ales made famous by this splendidly independent outfit: it was just that some of the finer points of making, marketing, and mergers expounded here failed to absorb me as I had hoped.

Nothing wrong, you understand, with the genre of company history (I once earned a crust editing a weighty study of a Lancashire paper mill), nor is this anything other than highly competent or scholarly, but its subtitle ('A Business and Family History') led me to expect rather more in the way of human interest. Presumably as an act of family piety, it has been brought out by two publishing houses associated with the Greene dynasty, Sir Hugh (chairman of the brewery 1971-78), whose biography was recently published by The Bodley Head, is certainly enjoying a good innings this season.

The Greenes, like their infinitely richer Irish counterparts the Guinnesses (with whom they are connected through Sir Hugh's first marriage), afford another example of the classic progression from business and money, to titles and land, and then activity in the arts. The brewery was founded at Bury St Edmunds in 1806 by a draper's son, Benjamin Greene who went on to become a slaveholder and a newspaper proprietor. One of Benjamin's sons became an able Governor of the Bank of England; another, who was the first chairman of Greene King (merged in 1887) became an MP and was the father of a landowning baronet fond of hunting, shooting, yachting and practical jokes. Benjamin's youngest son, a hopeless failure as a business man, was the great Graham who shared with his brother Hugh 'a long held interest in sampling the beers of different breweries'. GG is not the only novelist to be produced by the dynasty for Christopher Isherwood's maternal grandmother was a Greene.

FOYLES ART GALLERY SIMON BOLIVAR 1783-1983. An Exhibition of Paintings to celebrate the Bicentenary of the birth of SIMON BOLIVAR. 10-6 daily until 2 Jan. 113-119 Charing Cross Road, London W.C.2

THE TIMES DIARY

Who needs enemies?

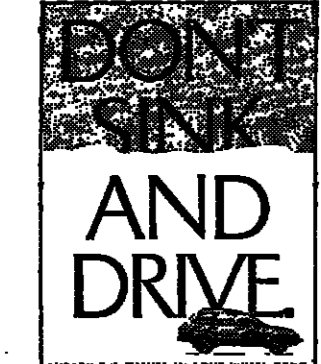
One of the last letters written by Tony Banks, the Labour MP for Newham...

Late post

Yesterday, London's chief post office by St Paul's Cathedral, three of the four clerks were showing the wrong time.

Fluid drive

Subaru, the Japanese car company, has recently been running an advertisement advising readers...



under a bridge. After it had been dislodged by tractor and breakdown wagon...

Mass appeal

Andrew Palmer, head of the Foreign Office department which deals with the Falkland Islands...

BARRY FANTONI SOCIAL SECURITY



Britoil has chosen a painting from Glasgow Museum for its Christmas card this year. It is called The Day of Rest, Winter View Greenock...

Cold comfort

Britoil has chosen a painting from Glasgow Museum for its Christmas card this year. It is called The Day of Rest, Winter View Greenock...

Auntie's festive low-de-low

David Hewson describes the danger signs for the BBC as it battles to regain its Christmas ratings

The BBC wants but one thing for Christmas: an audience as big and devoted to Auntie as it used to be.

The corporation is genuinely bemused over why it should be doing so badly in the ratings.

A quick trawl among the BBC's rivals reveals an unusual accord over where the blame lies.

This is a viewpoint shared by the advertising industry. Young and Rubicam, one of the leading television agencies...

undoubtedly its worst for some considerable time. The extent of ITV's dominance is shown by the fact that not a single BBC programme appeared in BARB's (Broadcasting Audience Research Board) listing of the month's top 50 rating programmes.

The BBC hopes that the holiday will provide some reversal of its fortunes. Its £10m package is as predictable as a Christmas Day menu...

The ITV companies are far more worried about maintaining their lead outside the holiday period than winning a battle for kudos within it.

The corporation cannot even comfort itself with the notion, current six months ago, that

television viewing itself is in decline. ITV's successful autumn, and the arrival of Channel 4, has actually increased the amount of time Britons spend in front of the set.

Had Channel 4 performed as well as it might, the news for the BBC would have been worse. But Jeremy Isaacs' organization is now beginning to find its feet...

What is the BBC's reaction? Initially, it has been to bring up the shock troops, Hi-de-hi, which was once one of the corporation's most popular comedy shows...

overall. Should Christmas go the same way, one must look to changes at Broadcasting House.

There is a school of thought which says that the BBC should be above chasing ratings since it is principally a public service broadcasting system.

Politics dictates otherwise. Next year, the corporation must enter into new negotiations about its future licence income.

The corporation's potential January blockbuster, which has been juggled around the schedules after the fashion of a fading centre forward...

It is flimsy stuff around which to set a cliffhanger about one of the world's great broadcasting institutions...

Ronald Butt

Are the churches missing the point?

This is how the present life of man on earth, King, appears to me in comparison with that time which is unknown to us.

It was in these words, according to Bede, that one of the chief men of Edwin of Northumbria answered the question the king put to each member of his council...

Today, however, it is the things between, here and now, that are dominant in the teaching of Christian priests and ministers.

On no question have they been more heavily involved than in that of nuclear war. The Catholic hierarchy and the Anglican Synod have rejected demands from within their churches to support unilateral disarmament...

Jonathan Sale

The Xfam way to a happy Oxmas

In the steam from the kettle, the flap of the envelope peeled up easily. It was an appeal for money, again like to check the children's letters to their grandparents for spectacles...

This is what they cost. "What I want costs £16.99," she wrote. "I am saving up for it but so far have only got the 99p - Love, Rebecca. PS. Peter has got his BMX bike now so you needn't give me anything for that. But I am saving up for some Star Wars spaceships. This is what they cost."

There is probably no harm done. The grandparents do not complain. They do not send cheques to the full amount, either, but money does find its way into post office accounts.

Dear Grandparent, I know that you have many demands on your resources this Christmas year. It is for this reason that you will want to be sure of the aid that you provide going straight to the recipient for whom it is intended...

for the well-being of others which must mean those in need and those without work.

But there is nothing, for instance, in Christian teaching which provides answers to the question when and whether the welfare of others is best assured by individual or communal action and, if by both, in what proportions.

Why, then, do churchmen increasingly express the imperatives of Christian principle in terms which imply, or even indicate, a particular political action.

Another Anglican priest spoke to me recently about the crowd of once-a-year attenders he expects at his church at midnight on Christmas Eve...

The tendency of our time is for the clergy to allow respectable doubt on what used to be the unquestioned tenets of their creed, while holding with apparent certainty the vision of right and wrong as it might be perceived by the presenters of Newswatch.

Yet if churchmen have few certainties to offer about the fundamentals, about first and last things, what special weight is to be attached to their attachment to particular social and political prescriptions?

Bernard Levin: the way we live now



Royal smokers: Edward VII, George V, Edward VIII and George VI - but how can David Simpson (right) say tobacco killed them?

You all know the story of the Boy Scout troop who were asked what good deed they had done that day, and answered that they had taken an old lady across the road.

To the fray, however. The lengths to which the anti-smokers will go is exquisitely demonstrated in another part of Mr Simpson's reply. Defending (as of course I would also) the right of the Duke of Gloucester to be patron of the anti-smoking organization, he said that the Duke's keen, active and concerned patronage of ASH reflects the seriousness of our work and responsibilities...

Edward VII died, in 1910, at the age of 69, a span somewhat above average for those days. George V died in 1936 at 71 (par for the course), the Duke of Windsor at 78, well above average, and George VI at 57, well below it.

Edward VIII enjoyed generally good health throughout his very long life; he was a fairly silly man most of the time, but again, Mr Simpson would presumably not argue that smoking causes softening of the brain...

Now estimate, to three places of decimals, the degree of self-deceptive intolerance from which a man suffers from the latter got it from the former, and still less can it prove that smoking was the only cause.

Smoking: a small puff for a little less humbug

number of diseases (including lechery, gluttony and gambling, though even Mr Simpson would not claim that these are induced by smoking); he had typhoid in 1871, a form of appendicitis in 1902 and some bronchial trouble in the year of his death...

George V played golf, gave up drinking throughout the First World War (if it comes to that, George VI gave up smoking throughout the Second) and broke his pelvis in a riding accident in 1915, but he survived all these catastrophes without lasting harm.

Edward VIII enjoyed generally good health throughout his very long life; he was a fairly silly man most of the time, but again, Mr Simpson would presumably not argue that smoking causes softening of the brain...

Now estimate, to three places of decimals, the degree of self-deceptive intolerance from which a man suffers from the latter got it from the former, and still less can it prove that smoking was the only cause.

Edward VII suffered from a innocent. Anyone who loves Irish food should be bearish, as most Irish people are, that its good name is invoked to justify this savagery.

The IRA's front organization in the US is the Irish Northern Aid Committee, known as Noraid. This week, the Boston Globe, which serves a city with a large Irish element, criticized the IRA and those city and state politicians who support it. The Globe said: "No political objective could justify random ruthlessness against the

or at any rate behave as though they are convinced, that if any person first smokes and then dies, it must follow as the night the day that the smoking was the direct and sole cause of the dying.

Smoking is undoubtedly dangerous; nobody should be encouraged to do it, or to admire it. It is also a fairly nasty habit. It undoubtedly aggravates many illnesses, and no less undoubtedly causes some of them, and fatalities therefrom.

It is well that there are organizations which need to draw our attention to the dangers of smoking, but it is not at all well that the members of such organizations should behave as though smokers are hostes humani generis, or as though the rules of evidence do not apply to those who campaign to stop them smoking.

Alcohol and Nikotin Raff die halbe Menschheit hin. Ohne Alkohol und Rauch, stirbt die andere Hälfte auch. If you smoke and if you drink, it is later than you think: If such poison's not your game, you will perish just the same.

Cross in northern Ireland and ACC in the Republic, for the relief of the families of jailed IRA men.

There are about 40 million Americans of Irish descent, and the Irish accent has traditionally been strong, not least in politics and in the police.

One effect of the Harrod's bomb outrage is likely to be a decline in support and donations for Noraid. IRA atrocities in the past have led to a falling-off in contributions, and Saturday's murders have had a considerable impact here, not only because an American died, not among the Christmas shoppers but also because Americans, in other parts of the world, have recently been the victims of terrorist car bombs.

Trevor Fishlock

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كنا من الأصل



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HARD POUNDING

Cabinet ministers congregated this morning for the last time in 1983, and Parliament rises for the Christmas recess this afternoon. It is six months since the election, but the political landscape seems quite different from that of June day...

and his colleagues for this complacency when they see the Alliance slipping further in the polls and appearing to be less and less credible as an alternative political system? Meanwhile it is said that the Government has become accident prone...

TWO CABINETS: ONE TERRORISM

One item on the agenda of today's Cabinet meeting is the possible proscription of Sinn Fein. There is a strong a priori case for doing so. Sinn Fein is a party which openly advocates the violent overthrow of the institutions of the state...

The discussion in Downing Street will have to concentrate on the position of Sinn Fein in Northern Ireland (although a ban, if that is what it comes to, should be for the whole United Kingdom...

POVERTY AND THE POLES

The low-key rallies held in Polish cities last Friday are not an indication of growing reconciliation between government and people; they are rather the result of a massive police presence and the constant emphasis by Solidarity leaders on the need for peaceful protest...

This is not the message of the underground Solidarity leadership, which maintains that there can be little improvement in the economy while ideology and the preservation of the political system are given higher priority than the people's welfare...

Just retribution for terrorism

From Mr Denis E. Meehan Sir, As an Irishman who has lived and worked in London for many years, I have often taken your proscriptive and transcribed myself in imagination to Belfast, as horrors multiplied there...

screams of children, then, in the stinking depths of even their coward hearts, will not the worm of remorse eventually begin to gnaw?

From Mrs Aileen Keogan Sir, As a citizen of this unfortunate country may I thank you for your compassionate editorial today (December 19)...

From Sir Ian Percival, QC, MP for Southampton (Conservative) Sir, One of the most common - and it would seem telling - arguments advanced against capital punishment for terrorists has been that it would make martyrs of them...

From Lord Hunt Sir, I listened to a part of the interview given today, and broadcast on the BBC's The World at One programme, in the aftermath of the Harrods bomb outrage...

From Mr Richard Meynell Sir, In the wake of the Harrods bombing, it may be helpful to the IRA to compare what they have in fact achieved by their actions with their declared, or self-evident, objectives...

From Mr J. Enoch Powell, MP for Dewey South (Official Unionist Party) Sir, Contrary to Mrs Hanna Quinn's belief (December 20), the provisions of the Government of Ireland Act, 1920, relating to a Council of Ireland are not 'still on the statute book'...

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From the Secretary of the British Medical Association Sir, It is tragic that those of us who have children's welfare at heart should be divided by Sir Bernard Braine's narrow arguments (December 15). We agree that in girls under the age of 16 sexual activity is medically and emotionally undesirable...

From Mr Maurice Cowin Sir, I read with great interest the article written (feature, December 14) by Robert Kilroy-Silk, Labour MP for Knowsley North, on the appalling situation regarding the plight of remand prisoners...

Children and the Pill

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Remand prisoners

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Financial solution

From Mr Giorgio Francesconi Sir, Far from being an unwelcome development, a British decision to withhold payment to the EEC (your leader, December 16) might help find a final solution to the permanent crisis of the last few years...

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Towards a new gas industry

From Sir Kenneth Hutchison, FRS Sir, The future of the gas industry is under discussion and decisions may have been taken already behind closed doors at the ministry. Even so I trust that it is not too late to offer some suggestions for consideration about the structure of the industry when it is returned to the private sector...

public issues of loan stock and equity for which it would be individually responsible. There should be a supply corporation, responsible as the British Gas Corporation is now, for procuring, producing, storing, and in the long term manufacturing, gas and for maintaining the transmission system by which to deliver gas to terminals in each area board. The terms and conditions of supply and demand should be contractually enforceable...

From Mr Victor Peskett Sir, You were right to highlight the plight of the people faced with the withdrawal of commercial bus services from 72 Norfolk villages (report, December 9), but perhaps too ready to follow the pessimistic forecast of the bus company's general manager...

From Mr C. H. Sisson Sir, "If the (efficiency) initiative is to survive it must push to get recommendations delivered without losing its bite. The credibility barrier is establishing that good management is not optional. So wrote Ian Beesly, head of the Efficiency Unit (report, December 14)..."

Efficiency drive

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Tempament to meddle

From Mr C. P. Dalton Sir, I was charmed by the picture of the refurbished platform at Charing Cross Underground station in your issue today (December 14). Waiting for the train could indeed be a pleasure in such surroundings...

US-Israel peace plans

From Mr John Stebbing Sir, Your leading article of December 1 reveals very clearly the significance of the new agreement of strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel: it shows also the great importance of an effective revival of the Reagan peace plan...

Middle East aspicues

From Dr. H. R. McKinlay Sir, The white stork (Ciconia ciconia) has just completed its autumn migration south through the north Bek'aa Valley, oblivious of terrestrial distractions. Though Meinertzhagen says that their main route is east of the Anti-Lebanon mountains, flocks of 500 to 2,000 birds flew in at an altitude of 200 metres from the direction of the Lac de Homs, beginning on August 31...



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE December 21: The Queen held a Council at 12.20pm today. There were present: the Viscount Whitlaw...

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J. Balfour and Miss C. Wild The engagement is announced between James, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Philip Butler...

Mr I. S. Cochrane and Mrs Blackwood Murray The engagement is announced between Iain Scott, eldest son of Mr and Mrs A. K. Cochrane...

Mr A. D. Irvine Robertson and Miss P. R. H. Steinhilber The engagement is announced between Sandy, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Alan Irvine Robertson...

Mr R. E. Watson and Miss S. C. Pitts The engagement is announced between Roger, only son of the late Mr W. Watson...

Mr D. A. Hazard and Miss F. E. Maxwell The engagement is announced between David, third son of Dr and Mrs R. W. Hazard...

Mr R. G. Rees and Miss J. C. Stevens The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Dr and Mrs E. G. Rees...

Mr E. J. Sawbridge and Miss J. J. Josephs The engagement is announced between Kevin, second son of Mr and Mrs J. Sawbridge...

Dinner

Royal Society of St George The Lord Mayor and Sir John Donaldson, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies...

Christening

The infant son of Mr and Mrs Alphonus D. Kelly was christened Charles William Tyrconnel...

Reception

Mr L. Leifland The Swedish Ambassador and Mrs Leif Leifland were hosts at a reception held yesterday...

Council to buy a king's monument

Cumbria County Council is to buy the monument to King Edward I in Burgh-by-Sands on the Solway...

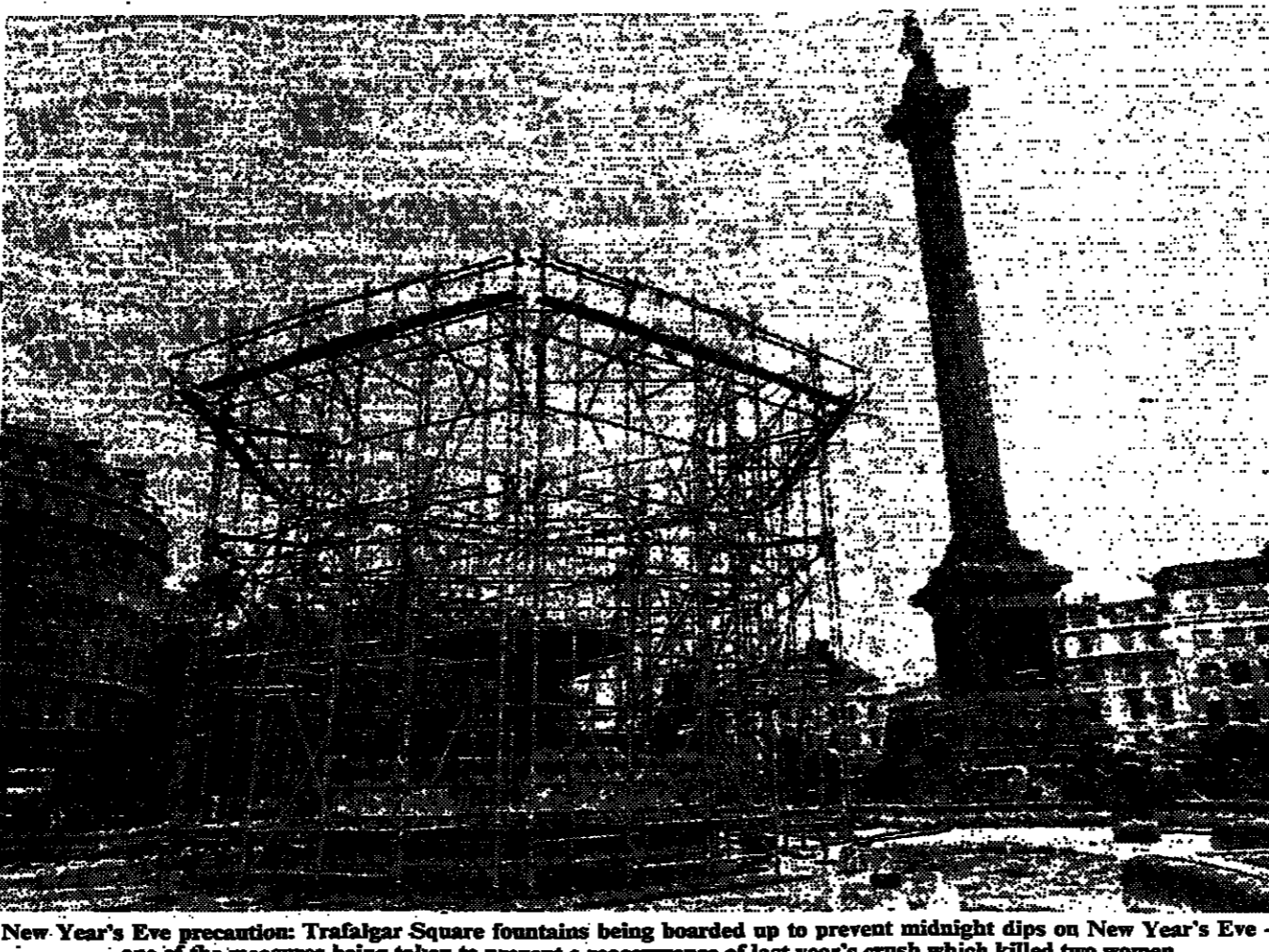
Luncheon

Association of Accounting Technicians The President of the Association of Accounting Technicians...

Science report

High-speed links help research

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent High-speed telecommunications circuits have been the subject of two experiments in Britain...



New Year's Eve precautions: Trafalgar Square fountains being boarded up to prevent midnight spills on New Year's Eve...

Birthdays today

Air Chief Marshal Sir John Aiken, 62; Dame Peggy Ashcroft, 76; Mr James Burke, 47; Dr Alan Bush, 83; the Right Rev Cyril Eastaugh, 86...

Latest appointments

Mr G. E. Mogridge, aged 54, head of information at the Export Credits Guarantee Department... Mr Michael Ward, aged 52, former Labour MP for Peterborough...

£11m aid for new life to Chatham dock

The Government is setting up a Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust, with £11m support from the Royal Navy dockyard closed at the end of March...

Latest wills

Sir Dennis Charles White, of Lyndhurst, Hampshire, High Court Commissioner for Succession, 1959-63, left estate valued at £186,443 net... Mr Ronald William Mitchell, of St Anne's, Lancashire, left £263,723 net...

Microcomputers in the classroom Learning Latin without tears

By Lacy Hodges, Education Correspondent Children of 11 and 12 are learning Latin with the help of microcomputers at the Edinburgh Academy...

Library loans to benefit authors from February

By Bill Johnston Authors will receive their first royalty payments on borrowings from public libraries in February...

Church news

Appointments The Rev A. E. Howard, non-stipendiary minister of St Andrew, Rugby, Diocese of Coventry... The Rev D. C. G. Hoyle, Chaplain at the Royal Naval School, Gosport...

OXFORD UNIVERSITY AWARDS

The following entrance awards have been announced by colleges at Oxford University: ST JOHN'S COLLEGE: History, Scholarship, N. G. Evans, St John's College, Oxford...

OBITUARY GWEN BERRYMAN BBC's Doris Archer



Gwen Berryman, the actress whose portrayal of Doris Archer on The Archers made her one of the best-known and best-loved voices on radio...

Her first important radio part was in a serialisation of Arnold Bennett's novel, The Old Wives Tale, which was broadcast live in the BBC Midlands Home Service in 1943...

MAJ-GEN R. A. HUTTON

Major-General Reginald Antony Hutton, CBE, DSO, OBE, DL, who died yesterday aged 84, was a meticulous staff officer and a bold, courageous and skilful commander...

There, in a difficult and prolonged battle on the crest of the Mayu Range, he captured a series of strongly defended Japanese positions, the routes to which he had personally reconnoitred alone with his orderly...

HENRY INLANDER

Henry Inlander, the Expressionist painter, died suddenly in Cambridge, London, on December 15. He was 58.

Inlander's highly individual manner of perceiving his subjects won him a reputation as one of the country's most original post-war Expressionists, and his work was exhibited at the Tate.

Other university news Leicester Grants National Environment Research Council grant for research into the physical and chemical evolution of a landscape...

He was born in Vienna and came to England in 1938 when his family fled Austria in the aftermath of the Anschluss.

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Why Merrill Lynch is thundering after Wedd

Earlier this month America's biggest investment brokers, Merrill Lynch The Thundering Herd... submitted an affidavit by Judge Robert Carter...

which time shares sold have to be supplied and those bought paid for. Most brokers will allow an extension of a week or two in special circumstances...

Memo sent

It was not until October that Merrill discovered that Pastor had been trading through Wedd, Durlacher. Using brokers like Salomon Brothers and Bear Stearns...

The shares, in Getty Oil, Motorola and National Semi Conductor (NSM), rose sharply in price leaving Pastor with an open commitment to the American brokers...

Accounts opened

Merrill Lynch is claiming that the president of Wedd's US operations, Mr David Rochester, formerly with Cazenove and now an employee of Merrill...

Wedd strenuously denies the allegation which is basically centered on the evidence afforded by Mr Rochester. The English firm is seeking to have Merrill's case dismissed for being technically incorrect...

Mr Rochester also asks whether Pastor had hot money and was laundering it at arm's length from the IRS (International Revenue Service); whether Pastor was trading at arm's length from the Securities Exchange Commission...

No comments

Although neither company was prepared to comment yesterday, it is clear that Pastor met his commitments to Wedd; it paid for all the shares that Wedd purchased on its behalf...

Middle East buyers foiled in Kleinwort Benson raid

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

An attempt by unknown Middle East investors to build up a 10 per cent stake in Kleinwort, Benson, Lonsdale, holding company for one of the City's top merchant banks, fuelled speculation yesterday over the next big development in the financial markets.

London subsidiary which manages portfolios for private clients in the Middle East. TWH said yesterday that it owned 2.52 million shares or 5.2 per cent of Kleinwort, Benson but denied that the stake was anything more than an investment.

to let the dust settle and see what happens." At Kleinwort, Benson, Lord Rockley, a director of the merchant bank took a relaxed view. "We know the people who are behind the purchase of the shares. They are longstanding banking customers", he said.

Messel & Co, the stockbroker firm, moved into the market yesterday morning offering up to 395p for shares in Kleinwort, Benson's 28p above the previous night's closing price.

Mr Philip Watson, a shareholder in TWH said the stake in Kleinwort, Benson had been bought on behalf of a couple of Middle East clients resident in the Gulf who were also shareholders in TWH.

He would not be drawn on the bank's plans to cope with the shake-up in the City and financial markets. "We've formulated a lot of ideas and we've never publicly aired them. We'll just have to see how and when they get implemented," Lord Rockley said.

Panelsets deadline on bid for Eagle Star

By Our Financial Staff

The City Takeover Panel yesterday set a deadline of 4.30pm on December 30 for the final bidding in Britain's biggest ever takeover battle for Eagle Star Holdings.

The deadline was imposed after a full meeting of the 13-member panel, chaired by Mr Martin Jacob, vice-chairman of Kleinwort Benson.

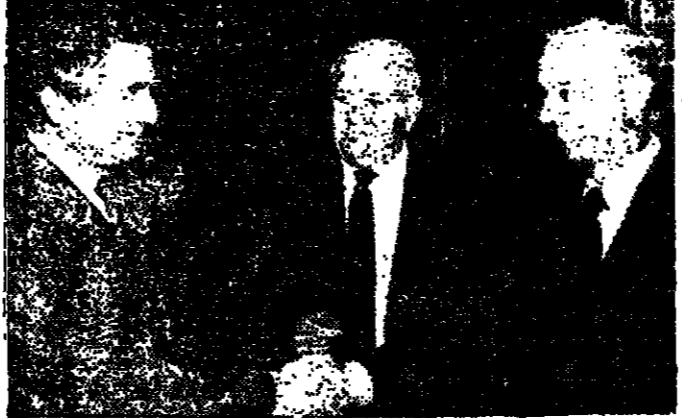
Mr John Hignett, director general of the panel, had called the meeting in a bid to resolve problems caused by the competing bids from the West German insurer, Allianz Versicherungs, and BAT Industries.

The panel was forced to announce the deadline and an amendment to its rules because of the unique nature of the bidding. The problems have been caused because the rival bidders have remained in the battle for Eagle Star for so long.

BAT Industries has the highest offer on the table with a 675p per share cash offer valuing Eagle Star at £934m. Allianz has offered 66p per share, which is worth £920m.

Under takeover rules, a bidder is not allowed to revise a takeover offer after the forty-sixth day after posting the last of two competing offers.

However, the panel has amended its rules so that each of the bidders is able to announce details of its final offer on the forty-sixth day (December 30) rather than posting them to shareholders that day.



US - Italian agreement: Carlo de Benedetti, Olivetti chairman (left), with Charles Brown, A T & T chairman (right) and James Olson, A T & T vice-chairman, after announcing their deal in Rome yesterday.

A T & T takes 25% stake in Olivetti

From John Earle, Rome

American Telephone and Telegraph is to take a 25 per cent share in Olivetti, Italy's data processing company, through a £240m (£183m) issue of Olivetti shares under a wide-ranging industrial and commercial agreement between the two groups.

Signor Carlo de Benedetti, Olivetti's chairman, said in Rome yesterday that the deal was "the biggest minority investment ever made by an American company outside the United States".

The two groups will distribute each other's products in their respective markets. Olivetti will supply AT & T, over a 12-month period from mid-1984, with a new Olivetti-designed product - about which no details were given - to an approximate value of \$250m.

The agreement also provides for joint development of AT & T's participation is being arranged through the issue of 10 million new shares. Signor de Benedetti has thus respected assurances, given to the French Government, that shares released by the recent reduction in French holdings (from the 33 per cent stake of Saint Gobain and Bull to the 10 per cent now held by CIT-Alcatel) would not pass into American ownership.

US expects 4.5% growth

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The American economy is expected to grow at an annual rate of 4.5 per cent in the final quarter of the year, continuing its year-long recovery from the most severe recession since the 1930's, the Commerce Department reported yesterday.

Release of the department's preliminary "flash estimate" of the fourth-quarter gross national product marked a day of extremely good economic news for President Reagan, who predicted at his year-end news conference on Tuesday that 1983 would turn out to be a banner year for Americans.

Polly Peck to raise £5m

By Michael Clark

Polly Peck, the international trading group headed by Mr Asif Ali, announced yesterday announced plans to raise £5m to finance its expansion programme.

Profit leap at Lloyds & Scottish

By Our Banking Correspondent

Lloyds & Scottish, the finance house controlled by Lloyds Bank with Royal Bank of Scotland a minority shareholder, reported a big recovery in profits yesterday.

Despite substantially higher bad debt provisions, pretax profits jumped from £12.3m to £22.4m in the year to September 30 and the annual dividend is unchanged at 3.87p net a share.

A change in accounting policy for regional development grants on leased assets has boosted profits by £2.3m and the previous year has been restated upwards by £1.6m but Lloyds & Scottish is falling in line with the generally accepted practice.

Lloyds Bank has long wanted to buy out Royal Bank's 39.3 minority stake in the finance house, but has been unable to reach agreement on price. However, on Tuesday Lloyds raised its stake in Royal Bank to 21.3 per cent to strengthen its bargaining position to gain the rest of Lloyds & Scottish.

Lloyds & Scottish is one of Britain's biggest finance houses and is particularly strong in hire purchase. It has been helped by lower interest rates, which averaged 1.6 percentage points less during 1982-83.

The previous year profits were depressed by heavy financing costs of two acquisitions, Bowmaker and Hamilton Leasing. But a £70.5m rights issue this year helped to reduce that burden.

Judge rules on NCB pension fund

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

A High Court ruling yesterday could end the drawn-out dispute over the running of the National Coal Board's £2 billion pension fund.

The ruling, made in chambers during interim proceedings in the Chancery Division by Mr Justice Vinelott and may possibly lead to a full trial. Because of this, lawyers for the National Coal Board and the National Union of Mine-workers, the two parties involved, declined to comment and the ruling has not been made public.

The case was brought by the NCB's five trustees on the pension fund to seek permission to go ahead with an investment in a US company. The NUM's five trustees had argued that they needed time to consider the issue, but the court has been told that because of the necessity of a quick decision on the investment a court ruling was required.

The pension fund had wanted to make the investment under its previous strategy which is being continued because the NUM refuses to meet or discuss a new programme.

The fund's trustees have always refused to reveal details of their investment plans because, they say, stock markets could be adversely affected if the fund's intentions were known in advance.

The NUM, using policy decisions by the Trades Union Congress to support its case, argues that it is wrong for the fund to invest in certain overseas companies and in industries which compete with coal.

No details of the investment involved in the High Court case have been released, but it is understood that the non-NUM trustees are anxious to continue the present policy of investing in the US bond market and in oil shares.

The eventual outcome of yesterday's High Court ruling could be that the NUM will change its policy and begin discussions with the other trustees on a new investment strategy.

Index at 772 peak

The FT Index surged through the important 770 mark yesterday, helped by renewed selective support for leading equities. It closed the day 2.2 points up at an all-time high of 772.0.

Big speculation produced good gains among the merchant banks and discount houses, where Kleinwort Benson was the subject of an abortive dawn raid. The shares ended the day 56p higher at 423p.

A firmer pound also provided late support for gilts, which, having been unchanged most of the day, closed with rises of about 25p. On the foreign exchanges the pound gained 30 points to close at \$1.4225.

STOCK EXCHANGES

Table with columns for FT Index, FT All Shares, Dax, Nikkei, Hang Seng, etc. Values include 772.0, 62.93, 20,005, etc.

CURRENCIES

Table with columns for LONDON CLOSE, Sterling, DM, FF, Yen, etc. Values include \$1.4225, 3.9450, 12.03, etc.

INTEREST RATES

Table with columns for Domestic rates, Bank base rates, etc. Values include 9%, 9 1/2%, 9 3/4%, etc.

GOLD

Table with columns for London fixed (per ounce), etc. Values include \$378.25, \$378.75, etc.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Retail boom 'to continue into spring'

Britain's retail boom is set to continue at least until next spring according to the results of the latest survey of the distributive trades by the Confederation of British Industry.

The survey, published today, shows there was a widespread increase in sales in November compared with a year earlier. The rise was most marked among retailers, with a smaller increase noted by wholesalers.

A balance of 33 per cent of distributors are optimistic about business conditions over the next three months again with retailers heading the list.

Blue Chip share prices forged ahead in early trading on the New York Exchange with Dow Jones industrial average rising 7.5 points to 1249. Volume was about 18 million shares in the first 45 minutes of trading.

Fisdec, a new venture capital business set up by Exco International and British and Commonwealth Shipping has invested much of its initial £6m of finance in four companies. Fisdec specializes in financial and information services and technology.

Di Pont, one of Northern Ireland's largest industrial companies, is to cut its energy bill by a quarter by converting its internal electricity generating plant in Londonderry from oil to coal, at a cost of £18m.

BSC in £2.4m merger with two producers

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Britain's three main producers of ferrous rolled rings, used mostly for railway wheel tyres, have agreed to a £2.4m compensation plan for the rationalisation of the sector under a scheme that will lead to the privatization of another of the British Steel Corporation's activities.

The BSC and the two private companies, Woodhouse and Rixon (Holdings), have agreed outline terms for the combining of their businesses into a new company to be called United Ring.

Lazard Brothers, the merchant bank which put together the proposals, will acquire 12.5 per cent of United Ring shares when the deal is completed, leaving the BSC with 75 per cent of the new company worth about £10.5m.

The scheme has been drawn up in response to the continued excess capacity in Britain for rolled rings, which also have applications in turbines and bearing cages.

BL yesterday sold its Aveling Barford construction equipment subsidiary, which employs 1,100 people at Grantham, Lincolnshire, to Mr Adrian Eschallier, an American entrepreneur.

The car group declined to reveal the price it received for the loss-making business, but indicated that the deal brings to £80m the proceeds from the sale of businesses since its recovery programme was launched in 1981.

Mr Eschallier, a former head of Gulf & Western's mining and resources division and a lawyer, is now chairman of Aveling. He said yesterday that among the priorities would be an expansion of overseas sales.

Proceeds from sales of offshoots reaches £80m

By Andrew Cornelius

BL yesterday sold its Aveling Barford construction equipment subsidiary, which employs 1,100 people at Grantham, Lincolnshire, to Mr Adrian Eschallier, an American entrepreneur.

The deal marks a milestone in BL's recovery programme by completing the sale of its peripheral activities.

BL's sales of Alvis, Prestcold, Coventry Climax and other businesses previously raised £53m, which indicates a price-tag of about £25m for Aveling.

The group has shed a subsidiary which has been losing money for the past four years.

The market for Aveling's dumper trucks, road rollers and grading equipment has declined sharply although losses have been cut in recent years.

Mr Eschallier has indicated that there are no immediate plans to reduce the workforce at Grantham, where the company is the largest employer.

Since leaving Gulf & Western after four years running 12

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Since leaving Gulf & Western after four years running 12

World market for this type of equipment has fallen by 20 per cent as orders have fallen from the construction and mining industries.

The fall in demand has been accompanied by a cut of 400 in the Aveling workforce and increasing emphasis on export sales, which now account for two-thirds of the company's £33m annual turnover.

Despite the problems Aveling has maintained its leadership in the dumper truck and road roller markets and to sustain sales volume.

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Since leaving Gulf & Western after four years running 12

F.M.C. plc and Subsidiary Companies

By Our Banking Correspondent

Table with columns for GROUP UNAUDITED RESULTS, 24 weeks ended 15th October, 1983, 24 weeks ended 16th Oct 1982, etc. Rows include SALES TO THIRD PARTIES, TOTAL TURNOVER, etc.

Commenting on the results for the twenty-four weeks ended 15th October, 1983, the Chairman, Mr A. P. Humphries, said: "Despite losses of approximately £400,000 incurred by the two Irish meat plants up to the date of their disposal in this period, and extremely difficult trading conditions in the summer of 1983, group trading profits have been maintained. All trading divisions in Great Britain showed improved results. A substantial reduction in interest charges arising from lower borrowings and lower interest rates helped the group to produce a profit before tax of £104,000, an improvement of £520,000 on last year. Extraordinary items include a provision for rationalisation and reorganisation.

# GOLF

## Women are given a big lift out of the rough by sponsors

Britain's women professionals will be playing for almost £400,000 next season — a large increase on the 1983 figure. Even more important, the standard of play should rise considerably as there will be 15 four-round stroke-play tournaments next year compared with only one last season.

The prize money has been increased through Hitachi sponsoring a revival of the British Women's Open with a purse of £140,000 at Woburn next October. But the PGA have virtually doubled other prizes, an excellent achievement considering that the women's circuit was in dire straits when they took over a year ago.

The circuit starts with the Ford Classic at Woburn in May and will go on until the middle of October. It also features a revival of the match-play championship, one Continental event — the Swedish open — and 16 pro-am tournaments.

Colin Snape, executive director of the women's PGA, said: "The tremendous increase in prize money in such a short period reflects the growing interest in women's golf throughout Europe. With more competition, the WPGA will continue to expand." Dates and venues:

**MAY 2-5:** Ford Classic, Woburn (£20,000); 17-20: Clarendon Classic, Clarendon (£10,000); JUNE 3: McEwan's Lager Manchester Classic, Heaton Park (£10,000).

**JUNE 6-8:** British Open Women's, Old Tom's (£10,000); 13-16: United Friendly Tournament, Hill Barn (£10,000); 20-22: USM Classic, Foxon Hill (£10,000); 28-JULY 1: Guernsey Open, Royal Guernsey (£10,000).

**JULY 12-14:** Caledonian Classic, Caledonia (£7,500); 25-28: J.S. Law Eastleigh Classic, Fleming Park (£10,000).

**AUGUST 2-5:** United Friendly Tournament, Southport and Ayr (£12,500); 7-10: White Horse Whisky Challenge, Burnham Beeches (£10,000); 14-17: Cotnam Jersey Open, Royal Jersey (£10,000); 25-28: Swedish Open, Molls (£17,500).

**SEPTEMBER 12-14:** Lorn Stewart Match Play Championship, Sudbury (£10,000); 24-27: Sands International, Sandown Sands (£10,000).

**OCTOBER 3-5:** Hitachi British Women's Open, Woburn (£140,000); 10-12: Smirnoff Irish Open, venue to be announced (£10,000).

## BOXING: FORMER CHAMPION'S COMEBACK GOES FORWARD

# Hearn wants Leonard rematch

Washington (AP) — Sugar Ray Leonard's first bout in his comeback after a two year lay-off will be against an American welterweight, Kevin Howard, on February 25, according to a WDW-TV report here.

The television station says that Leonard will face Howard, who is ranked eighth in the world, on February 25. The revenue has yet to be decided.

Leonard, the former undisputed world welterweight champion, aged 27 was forced to retire after an operation to repair a detached retina. His doctors have assured him that his eye is now completely healed.

Providing that Leonard comes through his warm-up bout successfully, a rematch against the World Boxing Council (WBC) super welterweight champion, Thomas Hearns, looks likely. But, if the bout against Hearns does take place, Leonard wants to wear gloves to further damage to his eye. Whether Leonard would also want to use thumbless gloves against Howard is not known.

Hearns has himself recovered from an injury — to his right hand and is anxious for another bout against Leonard who is the only man able to beat him. Hearns attended a press conference in New York on Tuesday, to promote his first title defence — over 12 rounds, which will take place in Italy. But he had Leonard uppermost in his mind.

"I want Leonard," he said. "It is not hard to see why since Hearns is cocky. That fight would be worth \$20m."

But first, Hearns will have to beat Minichillo, the former European junior middleweight champion, aged 28, who has a record of 42 wins and two defeats. The venue of the bout, which is scheduled for January 27, is likely to be in Las Vegas.

Hearns will also have to prove



Leonard: doctors say his eye is completely healed

that his feared right hand is now fully operational. Hearns injured his hand when winning the world title a year ago. He achieved a points decision over the Puerto Rican Wilfredo Benitez, despite having to box the final rounds with two dislocated bones.

But Hearns, aged 25, says he is no longer worried by his hand. Neither is he worried about Minichillo. "I don't know anything about Minichillo. If I prepared for him a certain way and he came out a different way I could be in trouble."

Hearns, of course, knows Leonard all too well. He believes Leonard can make a successful comeback despite the length of his lay-off and he still respects Leonard's skill. However, Leonard, referring to their 1981 bout for the world welterweight title, said: "I never should have lost that fight." Leonard retained the title when the referee halted the bout in the fourth round.

Hearns thinks that Leonard felt the urge to return to the ring after points decision, the recent world middleweight title bout between Roberto Duran, of Panama, and the American, Marvin Hagler, in Las Vegas.

Hearns said that Hagler, who retained his title by a unanimous points decision, would be an easier opponent that Leonard for him. But he prefers to take on Leonard because he wants a chance of revenge.

## A country town on the doorstep of Europe

# How Norwich round up prize scalps like Christmas turkeys

It is not every season that you can say "Yippee, I'm off to see Coventry play Norwich," but it was a fixture with something close to Match of the Day status on Saturday. And if the two clubs did only succeed in cancelling each other out in a match showing more bustle than the most out-of-control lady of fashion, the fact remains that both clubs are still serious contenders for one of those treasured places in Europe after that 0-0 draw.

The Coventry subcommittee of incongruous elements mixed into a harmonious whole is one of the surprises of the season. What is surprising about Norwich is not their healthy place in the first division (seventh before Saturday's match) but the fact that they are in the first division at all.

Norwich are the top division's perennial underdogs. Football is a big city game. Norwich is a country town with a big cathedral. At this time of year Norfolk is a place more readily associated with increasingly nervous turkeys than with increasingly confident footballers.

But it seems that never a season goes by without the collection of a few prized scalps by the Chingachgooks of Carlisle Road. If Watford amazed last season, and Coventry continue to amaze this, Norwich manage to find an amazing Saturday or three every season. True, they spent much of last season walking to the back of the relegation dogcart and only jumped clear at the moment he swung his net, but they also did the double over Liverpool. At Norwich surprises are part of the routine.

The theory used to be that it was the genius of the former manager John Bond, and his talent for spreading not much Marmite on an awful lot of toast, that allowed Norwich to cling on to their improbable position in the first division. When Bond upped and went to Manchester City in October 1980, leaving Ken Brown, his No 2 in charge, it seemed unlikely that the usual seasonal miracle of staying up could ever be worked again.

"I've got a different approach to John Bond," Brown said. "He can be very, very demanding of players and very frightening. I prefer to let players take responsibility for themselves, to enjoy themselves in a responsible, not a sloppy, kind of way. John was the kind of man who used to take the worries of management home with him every Sunday. I vowed I would never do that. But beyond that there were no special problems in taking over. I had always worked closely with John and know as much about the players as he did."

However, Brown's first trick as manager was to drop through the trapdoor to the second division, where you would expect the club to be by rights. But next season they were back up again. "It was a real nail-biter, that last match in our promotion season. We needed a draw at Sheffield Wednesday, but they scored a winner in injury time. Then the result from Leicester came through, and we were up anyway."

Brown's dealings on the transfer market mostly spring from a sale of Justin Fashanu to Nottingham Forest for £1m; the days of million-pound transfers seem so remote these days that we might be talking of transfer fees for Achilles and Hector. Fashanu provided cash for three £200,000 signings: Chris Woods, the goalkeeper John Deehan and Keith Beardsley.

"We are a small club with a small squad of players, but I'm lucky with players who function in different positions," Brown says. "We have strength in depth through versatility and there are virtues in smallness. There are a closer-knit group of players. We operate a maximum wage here, not 100, and players who don't like it go."

Being a football manager Brown expressed no surprise whatsoever in finding his team in 50 unexpectedly high positions after their six successive victories and one defeat in a run of 17 games. "I started with the last dozen or so games with last season when I got ourselves out of trouble. I did at the beginning of the season that you can check this — that we had the ability to win a place in Europe. I don't think we're good enough."

As the rumblings about a kind of intercity super league continue, it is pleasant to be reminded of the most enjoyable one — of the most enjoyable elements in English football, not just in cup competitions, but also in the League, where you have such inter-city rivalries as Manchester City, Chelsea and Sheffield Wednesday trying to break out of their second division while the Norwich bumpkin are hanging on in there just seven points behind Liverpool.

Simon Barnes

## BOOK REVIEWS

# Dreams to sustain us through the dark days

By Conrad Voss Bark

Around this time of the year fishermen ought to be tying flies, varnishing their rods and reading edifying books. There are several kinds of edifying books but those I am thinking of are those you take to bed because they will create dreams of what must be done at all costs in the coming year. An expedition to the Highlands, to the Catskills, to Tappan? A new and infallible fly? A new method of fishing? Perhaps none is likely to happen, but the thought will keep us going through dark days.

The new guide books are of that category evocative of a place, of moods and feelings, as well as being instructive in a Michelin way. A whole chapter will be devoted to one river, or even a pool in one river, with advice on flies and tackle and where and how to finish it, provoking an appetite as well as satisfying one's curiosity about far-distant places.

Three admirable books of this kind have been produced this year: two are anthologies

one edited by David Barr, a peripatetic East Anglian, the other by my wife, and the third invaluable guide is by John Ashley-Cooper. *A Salmon Fisher's Odyssey* (Witherby £14.50), *West Country Fly Fishing* (Batsford, £9.95) are all good Christmas reading except that the Hare guide is poor on lakes.

Four fishing classics have been republished by Andre Waller Hills's *A Summer on the Test*, Plunkett Greene's *Where The Bright Waters Meet*, Chaytor's *Letters To a Salmon Fisher's Son* and C.F. Tunncliffe's *Walker's Lake Flies and Their Imitation*.

Fly fishermen are also poets. There is Ted Hughes's superb poem about the sea trout in *River* (Faber and Faber, £10), with photographs by Peter Keen. They are also artists; and Ian Niall catches the pure beauty of the line and form of C.F. Tunncliffe in *Tunncliffe's Countryside* (Clive Holloway Books, £16.95).

## Holmes receives £16½m offer

New York (Agence) Larry Holmes, who resigned his World Boxing Council heavyweight title last week, has been offered an estimated £16½m (\$25m) to meet the South African, Gerrie Coetzee, the World Boxing Association champion, in New York on February 22, 1979, in the 12th round of a title main event.

The deal was disclosed yesterday by John Condon, the boxing president of Madison Square Garden, where the contest would be held. He said: "We'd put the fight on and take just 60 per cent of the gate. All the rest, the 40 per cent live and all the ancillaries would go to Holmes. We've figured Larry could come out with \$25 million."

Condon and Holmes will reportedly meet within the next few days. Condon added: "Larry told me he's very interested in everything I told him and the last thing he said to me was, 'I'd like nothing better than to fight in the Garden again.'"

If Condon's proposal is accepted, Holmes would be the Co-promoter of the bout with Madison Square Garden. The last time Holmes, who is 34, boxed in the Garden was June 22, 1979, when he stopped Mike Weaver in the 12th round of a title main event.

A contest between Holmes and Coetzee, became a possibility when Holmes was named yesterday among the WBA's top five challengers in its December rankings. Gerrie Coetzee, the WBA ranking committee's chairman, said: "Holmes has specifically asked to be included in the WBA rankings."

## IN BRIEF

### McKeever turns his back on Bolton

Rod McKeever, of Bolton, one of the top scorers in basketball's National League walked out on the club yesterday and returned to New Jersey. The American, who has been with Bolton for two seasons and averaged 27 points a game, decided he did not want to be a losing team.

Bolton have not won a match this season and their promoter, Keith Knight, said: "It will be difficult finding a replacement at this stage of the season to save off relegation."

**TENNIS:** Jo Durie, Britain's No 1 woman player, is planning to rest for a month after a successful year in which she has risen 16 places in the computer world rankings to eighth. Miss Durie is optimistic that the next list will put her at No 6.

Richard Whitchello, of Kent, is the top seed for the court boys' championship, sponsored by First National Bank, at Queen's Club, London, from January 2 to 7. Seeded to meet Whitchello in the final is his doubles partner, Ben Knapp, of Gloucestershire. Sarah Longbottom, of Yorkshire, is No 1 seed for the girls' event.

David de Miguel, of Spain, eliminated John McEnroe's young brother, Patrick, 6-1, 6-2 in the second round of the Orange Bowl under-18 tournament in Miami on Tuesday. McEnroe, a semi-finalist at the Wimbledon junior championships earlier this year, was the third seed.

**GOLF:** Ted Dexter, the former England cricket captain, faces a difficult start to his defence of the

Authorized Units & Insurance Funds	Authorized Units & Insurance Funds	Authorized Units & Insurance Funds	Authorized Units & Insurance Funds	Authorized Units & Insurance Funds	Authorized Units & Insurance Funds	Authorized Units & Insurance Funds	Authorized Units & Insurance Funds
1. American Mutual Life Insurance Co. (A.M.L.I.C.)	2. American Mutual Life Insurance Co. (A.M.L.I.C.)	3. American Mutual Life Insurance Co. (A.M.L.I.C.)	4. American Mutual Life Insurance Co. (A.M.L.I.C.)	5. American Mutual Life Insurance Co. (A.M.L.I.C.)	6. American Mutual Life Insurance Co. (A.M.L.I.C.)	7. American Mutual Life Insurance Co. (A.M.L.I.C.)	8. American Mutual Life Insurance Co. (A.M.L.I.C.)
9. American Mutual Life Insurance Co. (A.M.L.I.C.)	10. American Mutual Life Insurance Co. (A.M.L.I.C.)	11. American Mutual Life Insurance Co. (A.M.L.I.C.)	12. American Mutual Life Insurance Co. (A.M.L.I.C.)	13. American Mutual Life Insurance Co. (A.M.L.I.C.)	14. American Mutual Life Insurance Co. (A.M.L.I.C.)	15. American Mutual Life Insurance Co. (A.M.L.I.C.)	16. American Mutual Life Insurance Co. (A.M.L.I.C.)
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25. American Mutual Life Insurance Co. (A.M.L.I.C.)	26. American Mutual Life Insurance Co. (A.M.L.I.C.)	27. American Mutual Life Insurance Co. (A.M.L.I.C.)	28. American Mutual Life Insurance Co. (A.M.L.I.C.)	29. American Mutual Life Insurance Co. (A.M.L.I.C.)	30. American Mutual Life Insurance Co. (A.M.L.I.C.)	31. American Mutual Life Insurance Co. (A.M.L.I.C.)	32. American Mutual Life Insurance Co. (A.M.L.I.C.)

FOOTBALL: BRITAIN'S LAST HOPES ARE LOST AS YUGOSLAVIA WIN EUROPEAN DECIDER

Hunt butt severely punished by FA

The Coventry midfielder player, Steve Hunt, was suspended for two matches and fined £750 by an FA disciplinary commission in London yesterday for bringing the game into disrepute.

Injury-time goal deals fatal wound to Wales



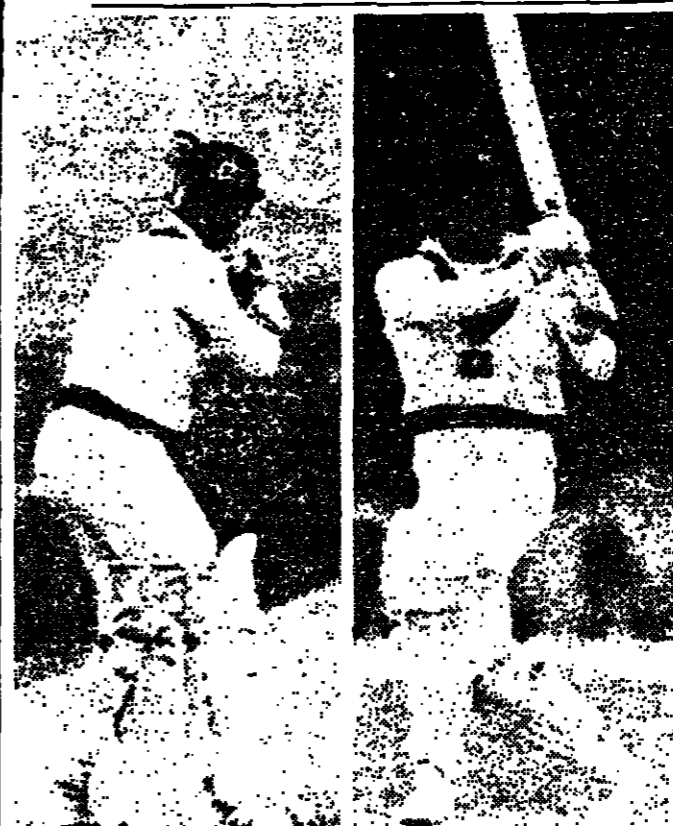
England: heartbroken

Wales failed to qualify for the finals of the European Championship in France next June by virtue of a Yugoslav goal in injury time against Bulgaria in Split yesterday.

More silver for the jaded

The Football League yesterday squeezed a new trophy, the Football League Cup, into the fixture list.

CRICKET: AUSTRALIA MAKE SEVERAL CHANGES IN SQUAD



Wood (left) out of teams captained by Hughes (right)

Rackemann dropped from Test teams

Sydney (AP) - The Queensland fast bowler, Carl Rackemann, has been dropped for the fourth and fifth Test matches against Pakistan.

Mohsin's century no help to Imran

Melbourne (Reuter) - Moshin Khan scored 104 not out in 152 minutes to guide the Pakistanis to an eight-wicket victory over South-West New South Wales in a one-day game at Griffith yesterday.

World Cup: 'two held'

Rio de Janeiro (Agencies) - Two men were reported to have been arrested in connection with the theft of the Jules Rimet Trophy, the original World Cup, here on Monday night.

Fiji's offer is finally taken up

London (AFP) - The Fiji Islanders, who have waited half a century for a visit by an English team, will have a manager granted when Bob Willis brings his touring side to play in the new year.

Early end to a match with single highlight

Trivandrum, India (Reuter) - The West Indians played out a draw with an Indian Under-22 XI on the final day of their two-day match here yesterday.

Birmingham might sell Harford to raise money

Birmingham City are prepared to sell their leading scorer, Mick Harford, in an attempt to raise cash for new signings.

Malvern and Chigwell break up on good terms

The Christmas term ended in a spat of local derbies. In the West Midlands, Charterhouse match the Carthusians have been dominant in recent years.

Ardeles in line for return

Ovaldo Ardeles is ready for his first full appearance for Tottenham Hotspur nearly a year, against Arsenal at White Hart Lane on Boxing Day.

Wilander and Arias may play in Los Angeles

Paris (AFP) - Mats Wilander, the Australian Open champion, could form part of the tennis showcase when the sport is demonstrated at the Olympic Games in Los Angeles next year.

FOR THE RECORD

Table with columns for Football, European Championship, and other sports records.

SNOW REPORTS

Table with columns for Location, Depth, Conditions, and Weather.

Toshack in line for swift return

John Toshack, the former Swansea City manager, is close to rejoining the club he left 32 days ago.

Oxford put up prices

Oxford United have again put up prices for their home match against the Ipswich reserves.

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CERTIFIED PPA DIVIDENDS FOR MATCHES PLAYED DECEMBER 17th

ZETTERS This week's 21st TOP winners include £33864

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European Super Cup Second Leg Arsenal 2-0 Hamburg

MILK CUP FOURTH ROUND BIRMINGHAM (1) LIVERPOOL (1)

Tottenham Hotspur are ready for their first full appearance for Tottenham Hotspur nearly a year

Wilander and Arias may play in Los Angeles

FOR THE RECORD

SNOW REPORTS

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FOR THE RECORD

RUGBY UNION: WELSH CONTINUE CONTROVERSY OVER BANNED PLAYERS

Wales may still choose Perkins

John Perkins, the Pontypool lock forward who established himself in Wales's team last season, has been left out of the 34-man squad announced yesterday by WRU for their opening Five Nations match against Scotland in Cardiff on January 21.

Perkins will, however, be considered by Wales once he finishes a one-month ban after being sent off in a recent club match, the chairman of selectors Rod Morgan stated.

Jeff Whiteford, the uncapped Cardiff prop widely expected to make his international debut this season, has also been left out of the squad after being sent off during last Saturday's Welsh Cup match against Treorchy.

The uncapped locks, Chris Booker (Cross Keys) and David Hopkins (South Glamorgan Institute), C Rees (London Welsh), E Rees (Neath), D Richards (Swansea), M Riny (Cardiff), T Tudor (Bridgend), Peter Bevan (South Wales Police), M Dwyer (Swansea), G John (South Glamorgan Institute), D Bishop (Pontypool), M Douglas (Llanelli), R Gies (Aberavon), J Forrester (Cross Keys), E J Butler (Pontypool), A Davies (Llanelli), M Davies (Swansea), I Edman (Cardiff), J James (Aberavon), S Jones (Pontypool), R Morgan (Newport), R Morley (Swansea), R Norster (Cardiff), D Picketing (Llanelli), G Roberts (Swansea), T Shaw (Newbridge), I Stephens (Bridgend), D Waters (Newport), M Watkins (Newport).

There is still no place in the selectors' calculations for the former Wales captain and Lions stand-off half, Gareth Davies, who is only 27 and enjoying a vintage season with Cardiff.

WELSH SQUAD: Full backs: H Davies (Bridgend), M Wyatt (Swansea), G Evans (Aberavon), T Jones (Aberavon), R Dwyer (South Wales Police), A Hodge (Cardiff), K

pickings players for international sides if they have been sent off during the same season, Wales have not followed the same line. It seems particularly unfortunate that they should not have chosen to do so once more in the light of recent publicity given to incidents in the match between Moseley and Swansea. Even if it means the loss of players of international calibre for a season, players should be aware of the possible loss of status which may result from a dismissal. There is no change, however, where Gareth Davies is concerned, and it is equally difficult for "outsiders" to believe that Wales have three stand-off halves all better than the Cardiff player. Gareth Davies, who must now be feeling that his days as an international player are over.



Over to you: Glenn manages to get the ball away to the No 14, White, despite the close attentions of Mdawarima and Kayembe at Old Deer Park. (Photograph: Ian Stewart).

Zimbabwe Schools break even on tour

By David Hands London Schools.....3 Zimbabwe Schools.....17 The Zimbabwe national schools side has trodden in the footsteps of the senior side which toured England in September, but with considerably more success. They therefore offer considerable optimism for their country's rugby future after concluding their tour at Old Deer Park yesterday, where they beat London by a goal, two tries and a penalty goal to a penalty and by doing so broke even for their visit.

Scottish Youth before the third win at the home of London Welsh, a pleasant homecoming for their Welsh-born manager, Tom Reakes. Zimbabwe has many of the virtues and faults of their seniors. They like to run the ball, but, under pressure, they concede too many penalties. It was London's misfortune that they could take little advantage of possession won here and from the set pieces though again it was very much a scratch side which met for the first time only yesterday morning.

two coloured players in the side, at the front to good effect. London had a heavier pack and did well in the set scrums, taking three heels against the head and picking up another ball as it squirted from the side of a retreating Zimbabwe scrum. But their midfield could create little, there seemed too much dependence on the incursions from full back of Hobbs, the captain, and too little time given to working space for a pair of useful wings.

With Mighty Fly doing so well on the Flat last season and Combs Ditch shining under National Hunt rules, Jim Tory, their owner-breeder, thoroughly deserves to win the National Hunt Cup which goes to the smaller breeder of special merit. Few will quibble with Joan Scott getting the Dudgeon Cup because she was the breeder of both Precipice Wood and Spartan. Gentles who featured prominently among the leading National Hunt sires despite intense competition in that sphere from Ireland. Precipice Wood himself was both awards for the most successful stallion in the world, one given by Col Bill Whitbread and one by the Horse and Hound.

Glasgow McGuinness Minister warns Welsh

Glasgow McGuinness Minister Neil MacFarlane, the Minister for Sport, made an urgent plea to the Welsh Rugby Union yesterday to consider whether to go ahead with further matches against the touring South African youth team. Mr MacFarlane warned the WRU of the implications for sport in Wales if the tour continued.

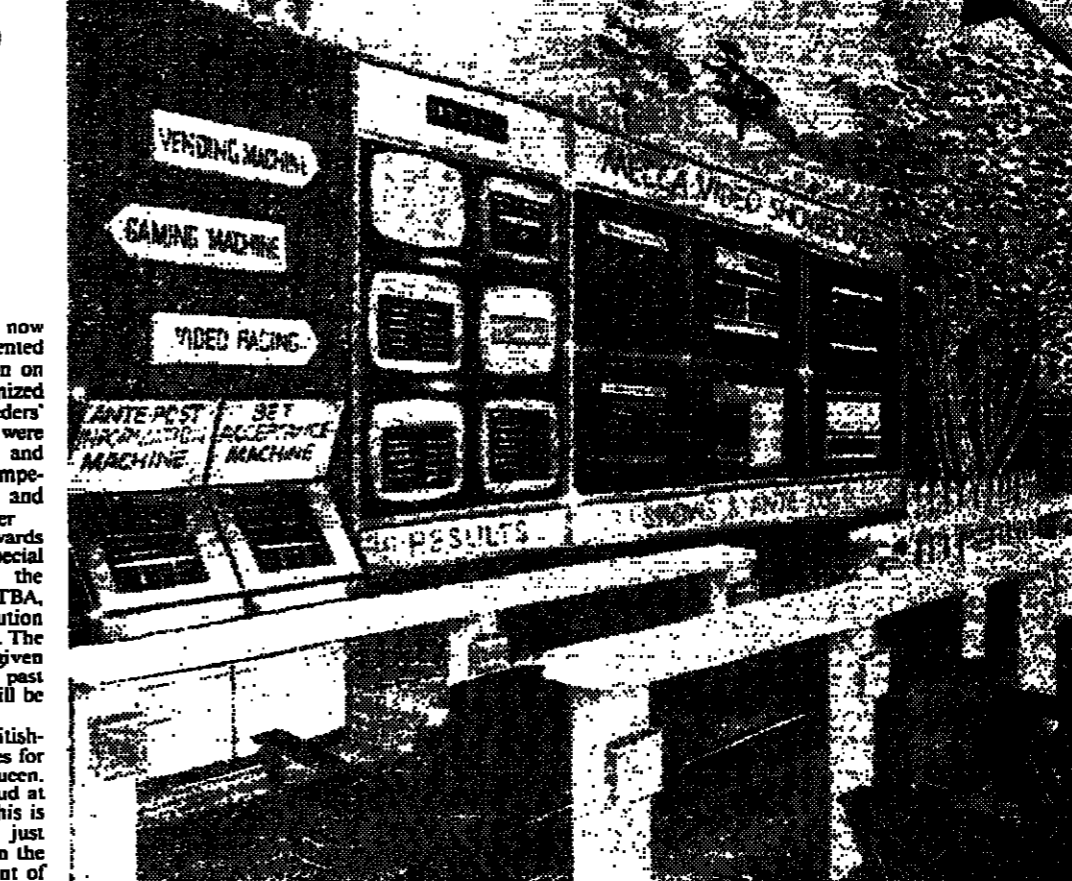
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Mr MacFarlane's plea came after he had repeated warnings about the threat posed to Commonwealth sport if a proposed tour of South Africa by an England rugby team next year went ahead. He said he would be speaking to the president of the Rugby Football Union, Ron Jacobs, before he and his committee meet to decide whether the tour should continue, to ensure they fully understand that at the recent heads of government conference in Delhi Britain's commitment to the declaration on apartheid in sport was reaffirmed.

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Award to stud is richly deserved

By Michael Phillips Racing Correspondent The British breeders awards, now an annual event, will be presented for the second time in London on January 9 at a luncheon organized by the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association. The awards were designed to whip up support and enthusiasm in Britain with competition from the United States and Ireland getting hotter and hotter.



A new idea (above) for the betting office of the future is likely to appear in three months' time. The system is to be installed by Mecca bookmakers, at first for the use of greyhound racing. The machines will be operated by the punters, who place their own win and forecast bets up to a £2 stake. The monitor is linked to a videodata which supplies the runners. Once the selection has been made, the punter puts in his money and then punches in his bet, using three keys: one for the trap number, the second for the type of bet, and the third for the amount of money staked.

Exciting prospects set to make winning debuts over fences

Justifiable caution, perhaps, but Dickinson then gave himself away by admitting: "I thought training horses was difficult but tipping them must be a lot worse." Manfully ignoring the great man's ready-made excuses, racing correspondents everywhere, it does look as if Trust the King is something to bet on in Hereford's Caraway Novices Chase. A winner at Ascot and a respectable eighth to Sing du Lion at the Cheltenham Festival last season, this powerful son of Menelek has always seemed made for fences and should be up to coping with the likes of Square Rigger and Double Back. Nicky Henderson, his trainer, is well satisfied with Trust the King's schooling, but not so happy about a couple of other issues. Henderson could not understand why Steve Smith's horse, Llantryfan, who was well schooled by Trust the King's schooling, did not give Smith Eccles instructions to ride a waiting race on Saturday.

Antic has finished a distant last of four behind Wayward Lad at Huntingdon and "won" a two-horse race at Nottingham when his only rival slipped. "The handicapper's gone bananas," Henderson said. "Antic won three races in New Zealand and he's never beaten a horse here. He's been given 12 stone in a £5,000 race at Newbury when he should be carrying 10st 10lb at a course like Wolverhampton."

Today Antic may be handicapped by the presence of the former Irish horse, Poyntz Pass, who never showed his best when he was at Cheltenham but had useful form before that. Henderson is also hopeful of a good showing from Ayab Record Run's half-brother, in the Cotswold Novices' Hurdle on the experience of Welsh Oak, who showed when a close second to Allied Newcastle at Newton Abbot. Returning to Uttoxeter, Jimmy FitzGerald's Sharpshooter, just caught by Lucky Call on his reappearance at Market Rasen, should have the edge over the course specialist, Tamdhu while Ladycross has a sound opportunity to repeat an earlier course victory against poor opposition in the second division of the Norbury Novices' Hurdle.

Hereford

- 12.30 COLTSFOOT HURDLE (3-y-o: 2337: 2m) (17 runners) 1 314023 THE THUNDERER (D) G Brunton P Taylor 11-7 A Carroll 2 314024 THE THUNDERER (D) G Brunton P Taylor 11-7 A Carroll 3 314025 THE THUNDERER (D) G Brunton P Taylor 11-7 A Carroll...

Uttoxeter

- 12.45 NORBURY HURDLE (Div 1: novices: £890: 2m 11) (20 runners) 1 314023 THE THUNDERER (D) G Brunton P Taylor 11-7 A Carroll 2 314024 THE THUNDERER (D) G Brunton P Taylor 11-7 A Carroll 3 314025 THE THUNDERER (D) G Brunton P Taylor 11-7 A Carroll...

RACKETS

Hard-hitting and hungry for a fight

By William Stephens Rupert Owen-Brown, the fourth seed from Tonbridge School, forced his way into today's semi-final of the H. H. Foster Cup at Queen's Club when he eliminated Michael Carr, of Radley, 15-2, 15-10, 15-5, in a hard-hitting match of high quality. Both players showed what has been lacking among some competitors, a hunger for a fight.

SKIING

Miss Wenzel races to her first downhill victory

Haus, Austria (Agencies) Hanni Wenzel, the slalom and giant slalom specialist from Liechtenstein, won her first ever women's World Cup downhill race here yesterday, edging the favourite, Irene Epple, of West Germany, into second place. Miss Wenzel, aged 27, started the downhill at Val d'Isere two weeks ago, started third and appeared to have the race sewn up as later starters failed to match her stunning time of 1 minute 45 seconds. But her second place meant she retained the lead in the World Cup downhill standings.

YACHTING

NZ lead stretched by a point

From John Roberson Sydney Despite struggling through a slow day, the British team dropped only one point to the leaders in the second race of the Southern Cross Cup, recalled yesterday after being postponed for lack of wind on Saturday. Jade (Larry Woodell), Indulgence (Graham Walker) and Panda (Peter Whip) finished fifth, twelfth and sixteenth, respectively, but we fortunate that all the other teams had mixed results, too. New Zealand increased their lead by one point over the second-placed British, while in third place the Papua New Guinea team dropped a further nine points behind Britain.

BOBSLEIGH

Swiss to puff on Soviet 'cigar'

Zarich (Reuters) - The Swiss bobsleigh team have obtained plans of the new revolutionary Soviet sled and aim to perfect their own version in time for the winter Olympics in Sarajevo in February. The Swiss Bobsleigh Association president, Erwin Brazzer, said that a local firm had undertaken to produce a Swiss version before the European Cup in January. Mr Brazzer declined to say how he acquired the plans. "Suffice to say that I have them," he said. Known in Switzerland as the "cigar" because of its narrow build, the new sled is not without critics who query its safety.

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Hereford selections

By John Kartier 12.30 Welsh Oak, 1.0 Severn Sloop, 1.30 Poyntz Pass, 2.0 Trust The King, 2.30 Rib Law, 3.0 Do Or Die.

Uttoxeter selections

By John Kartier 12.45 Haystack, 1.15 Sharpshooter, 1.45 Satin Grange, 2.15 The Welder, 2.45 Wood Avon, 3.15 Ladycross.

Emot... Divisional Court... Prisoner is entitled to go direct to solicitor... Various legal notices and advertisements on the right margin.



THE ARTS

Michael Darlow has fought his way out of television type-casting to direct his first feature film, Accounts, to be shown on Channel 4 tonight.

Interview by David Robinson

Emotional self-discovery

Accounts, which is to be shown on Channel 4 tonight, is Michael Darlow's first feature film, though in fact he very nearly emerged as a feature director three years ago. At the end of 1980 he began work on The Desert King...



Robert Smeaton (left) and Michael McNally, with Elspeth Charlton as their mother

local team and is very much a part of the local scene. You might wonder at the scene where the two boys write poetry. I can only say that Michael gets the local kids in Halthwaite writing poetry and doing their own plays.

Theatre

Oliver Aldwych

Evoking the whole of mid-Victorian London, but never seeking to deceive the spectator into believing he is looking at anything other than a stage. Sean Kenny's set for Oliver! was instantly recognized as the work of a great designer.

Special Occasions Ambassadors

Coinciding nicely with a lead letter in this newspaper about the marked effect on children if divorced parents manage to go on cooperating, Bernard Slade's two-hander comedy considers the effect of post-divorce meetings on the parents themselves.

Dance

Dash Dominion

I wish I could be more enthusiastic about the latest version of Wayne Sleep's Dash, which opened this week for a short season at the Dominion.

BBCSO/Atherton

Festival Hall/Radio 3

The second instalment in the Ravel/Varese Festival was the latter like the first. We had exchanged the Queen Elizabeth for the Festival Hall, and the London Sinfonietta for the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

Concert

luridly coloured postcards. We tend to forget that Ravel's Spain was not Benidorm and de-natured flamenco.

Television

Fictional facts

Q.E.D. (BBC 1) posed the question Eyewitness Evidence... Fact or Fiction? which rather missed the point: the bald distinction between fact and fiction is not helpful, since we tend to rely upon interpretations of visual material which are sometimes afforded the status of facts.

Divisional Court

Prisoner is entitled to go direct to solicitor

Regina v Governor of Wormwood Scrubs Prison, Ex parte Anderson. Before Lord Justice Robert Goff and Justice Mann.

Law Report December 22 1983

Order not upset by remarriage

Jenkins v Livesey (formerly Jenkins). Before Sir John Arnold, President and Mrs Justice Hillborn.

Court of Appeal

No privilege against self incrimination

Universal City Studios Inc and Others v Hubbard and Others. Before Lord Justice Cummings-Bruce and Lord Justice Fox.

Agreement to pay all costs unlawful

Windvale Ltd v Darlington Insulation Co Ltd. A provision in an arbitration agreement whereby one party agreed to pay the costs of both parties was prohibited by section 18(3) of the Arbitration Act 1950.

Jury direction on intent in murder trials

Regina v Moloney (Alistair Barden). Although in most murder cases it was sufficient, with regard to mens rea, merely to direct the jury that the prosecution must prove intent to kill or to do really serious bodily harm.

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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS and FUNERAL NOTICES. Includes names like Mary and Andrew, and details of their unions.

WANTED. Includes a notice for a French and Italian girl and a notice for a lost passport.

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS. Lists various holiday packages and villa rentals, including 'Israel winter break' and 'Free Summer in America'.

BIRTHS. A collection of birth announcements, including names like Bradford, Clegg, and Hillard.

DEATHS. Notices of passing, including names like Abbott, Bailey, and Berry.

ANNOUNCEMENTS. Includes a notice for 'The only support we get in the fight against Britain's biggest killer is yours.'

CHRISTMAS DEADLINES. A list of dates and deadlines for Christmas-related items and services.

IN MEMORIAM. Remembrance notices for individuals who have passed away, such as Murray and Hulton.

PERSONAL COLUMNS. The main section containing various personal advertisements and notices.

WINTER SPORTS. 'BLADON LINES' advertisement for ski holidays in France, Italy, Austria, and Switzerland.

LEGAL NOTICES. A collection of legal notices, including 'IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE' and 'IN THE COUNTY COURT'.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS. Advertisements for musical instruments and related services.

RENTALS. Listings for various rental properties, including 'SUPERB FLATS & HOUSES' and 'LUXURY FLATS'.

FLIGHT BARGAINS. Advertisements for discounted flights and travel packages, including 'GERMANY FR 872' and 'NEW YORK FR 5258'.

WINE AND DINE. Restaurant and dining advertisements, including 'ROMANTIC DINING' and 'CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS'.

FLAT SHARING. Advertisements for flat sharing opportunities, including 'M.W.S. PROF. FEM.' and 'FRIENDLY LOVE OR MARRIAGE'.

FOR SALE. Advertisements for items for sale, including 'RESISTA CARPETS' and 'WOLF HON'.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS. A collection of Christmas greeting cards and related advertisements.

TO ADVERTISE IN. An advertisement for advertising in 'The Times' and 'The Sunday Times'.

LEGAL NOTICES. Continuation of legal notices, including 'IN THE COUNTY COURT' and 'IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE'.

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EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK. Advertisement for the bank's services, including legal and financial advice.

LAWYER. Advertisement for a lawyer's services, specifically mentioning 'LEGAL APPOINTMENTS'.

A Very Happy Christmas. Advertisement for a Christmas party or event.

SENIOR SECRETARIES. Advertisement for senior secretarial services.

PERSONNEL OFFICER. Advertisement for personnel officer services.

INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS. Advertisement for international appointment services.

SALES AND MARKETING APPOINTMENTS. Advertisement for sales and marketing appointment services.

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT. Advertisement for the educational supplement.

ADVERTISEMENTS. Advertisement for advertising services and agencies.

ENTERTAINMENTS. Advertisement for entertainment services and events.

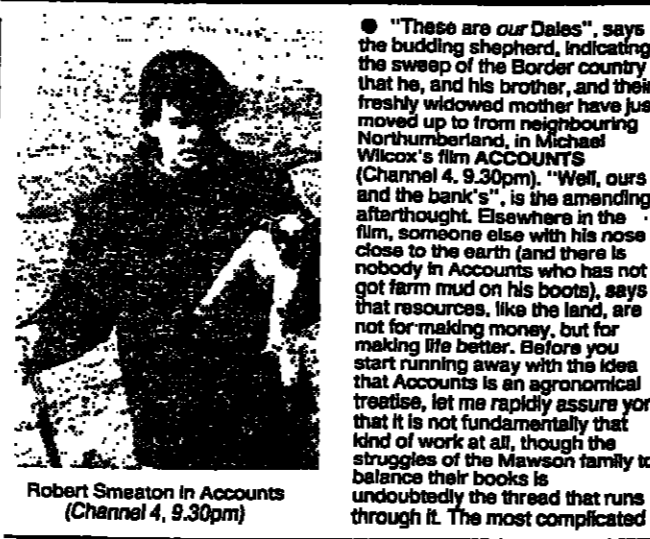
ENTERTAINMENTS. Advertisement for entertainment services and events.

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Davalle

BBC 1
8.00 Ceefax AM: News and...
8.30 Breakfast: Time with Frank...
9.00 News: Today's special...

TV-am
6.25 Good Morning Britain: with...
9.00 News: Today's special...



Robert Smeaton in Accounts (Channel 4, 9.30pm)

CHOICE
accounts that the brothers have...
accepting the fact that the best...

Radio 4
6.00 News Briefing. 6.25 Shipping...
6.30 Today: Including 6.30, 7.30, 8.30...

Radio 2
5.00am Ray Moore's 7.30...
6.00am Terry Wogan's 10.00...



Elizabeth Spriggs: Josef and Martin (Radio 3, 7.30pm)

BBC 2
3.30 Film: Mr Blendings Builds his...
4.25 Film: The Three Ages (1922)...

CHANNEL 4
6.00 News: Today's special...
6.30 Today: Including 6.30, 7.30, 8.30...

Radio 3
6.00 News Briefing. 6.25 Shipping...
6.30 Today: Including 6.30, 7.30, 8.30...

Radio 1
6.00 News: Today's special...
6.30 Today: Including 6.30, 7.30, 8.30...

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS
BBC 1 WALES 12.57-1.00pm News...
S4C Starts: 2.05 Fitzcarrald...

YORKSHIRE As London except...
HTV As London except: 1.20pm-1.30...

GRANADA As London except...
ANGLIA As London except: 1.20pm-1.30...

Entertainments

THEATRES
CENTRAL: 10.00-11.00pm...
DOMAR: Warehouse...

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